



NO. 75
MAR '01

ROBINSON
SNEJBÆRG

STARMAN



SONS AND FATHERS



ROBINSON
2000



FROM THE SHADE'S JOURNAL...

Culp and the Mist are dead, but so too are Ted Knight and Matt O'Dare. Opal endeavors to rebuild itself and shake off the sadness of things past.

But so too must Jack Knight.

Now read on...



THINGS THAT CAME AFTER THE THINGS BEFORE... ARE DIFFERENT.

YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S THE BEST WORD... DIFFERENT.



NOW MY SON IS **MORE** MY LIFE THAN COLLECTIBLES OR CRIME-FIGHTING.

MY BOY NEEDS FEEDING. HE NEEDS CHANGING. MY BOY NEEDS **LOVE** SO HE CAN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND I'M HIS DAD AND NOT **JUST** SOME WEIRD GUY HE GOT STUCK WITH.



HE **CRIES** FOR HIS MOM. HE MISSES HER.

I CRY TOO SOMETIMES FOR MY LOSSES.

DAD. SADIE. ONE DEAD, ONE FAR AND GONE.



DON'T GET ME WRONG, THOUGH. EVEN THOUGH FATHERHOOD HAS **MOSTLY** WAYLAID ME FROM THE SUPERHERO THING, I **STILL** DO WHAT I CAN...

I'M STILL STARMAN... STILL LIGHTING THE DARKNESS.

YEAH...

...ALL THAT NUTTY STUFF.

THE WORST OF IT IS TRYING NOT TO BREAK DOWN WITH SAD LONGING WITH EACH THUMP OF MY BROKEN HEART.

...MEN FROM MARS...

THAT'S TOUGH. IN THE FACE OF THE JSA...

...AND ALL.

THE BEST WAS BEING A KID AGAIN.

SUDDENLY IT WAS LIKE MY PROBLEMS WEREN'T...

...WEREN'T MINE ANYMORE...

... THAT THEY BELONGED TO SOME OTHER BIG GROWNUP I SORT OF KNEW BUT DIDN'T QUITE.

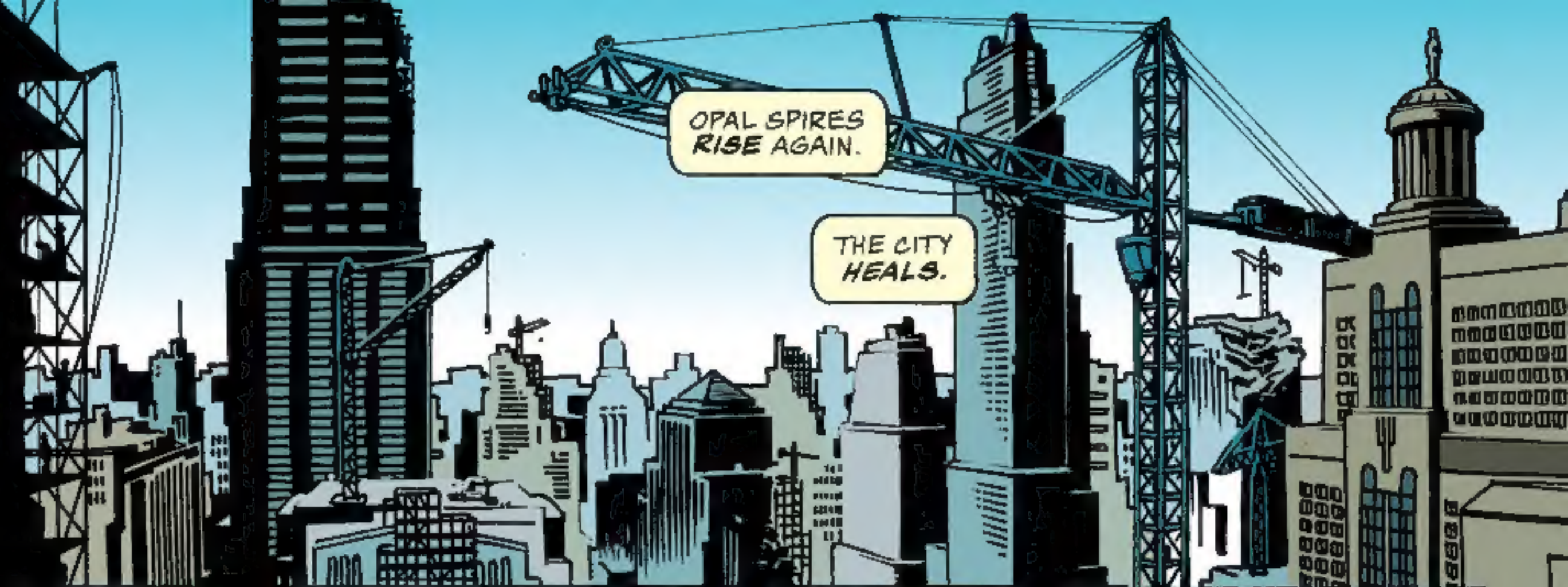
THE BEST WAS SEEING THE WOMAN COURTNEY WILL BECOME. THE HEROINE TO BE.

BUT THEN WE ALL GREW UP. FELT MY VOICE DROP FOR A SECOND TIME.

AND THE WOE AND DARKNESS DROPPED, TOO.

... BACK INTO MY HEART.

TRY BABY & TIN LATELY



OPAL SPIRES
RISE AGAIN.

THE CITY
HEALS.



AND WITH THE *TWENTY-ONE*
GUN, O'DARE TARTAN, GOOD
COP'S BURIAL THAT MATT
O'DARE GOT, HIS BROTHERS
AND SISTER *BEGAN* TO HEAL,
TOO.



ALTHOUGH I GUESS
ONE OF THEM
CHANGED FOR THE
EXPERIENCE.



MASON.



CHARITY.

MASON.



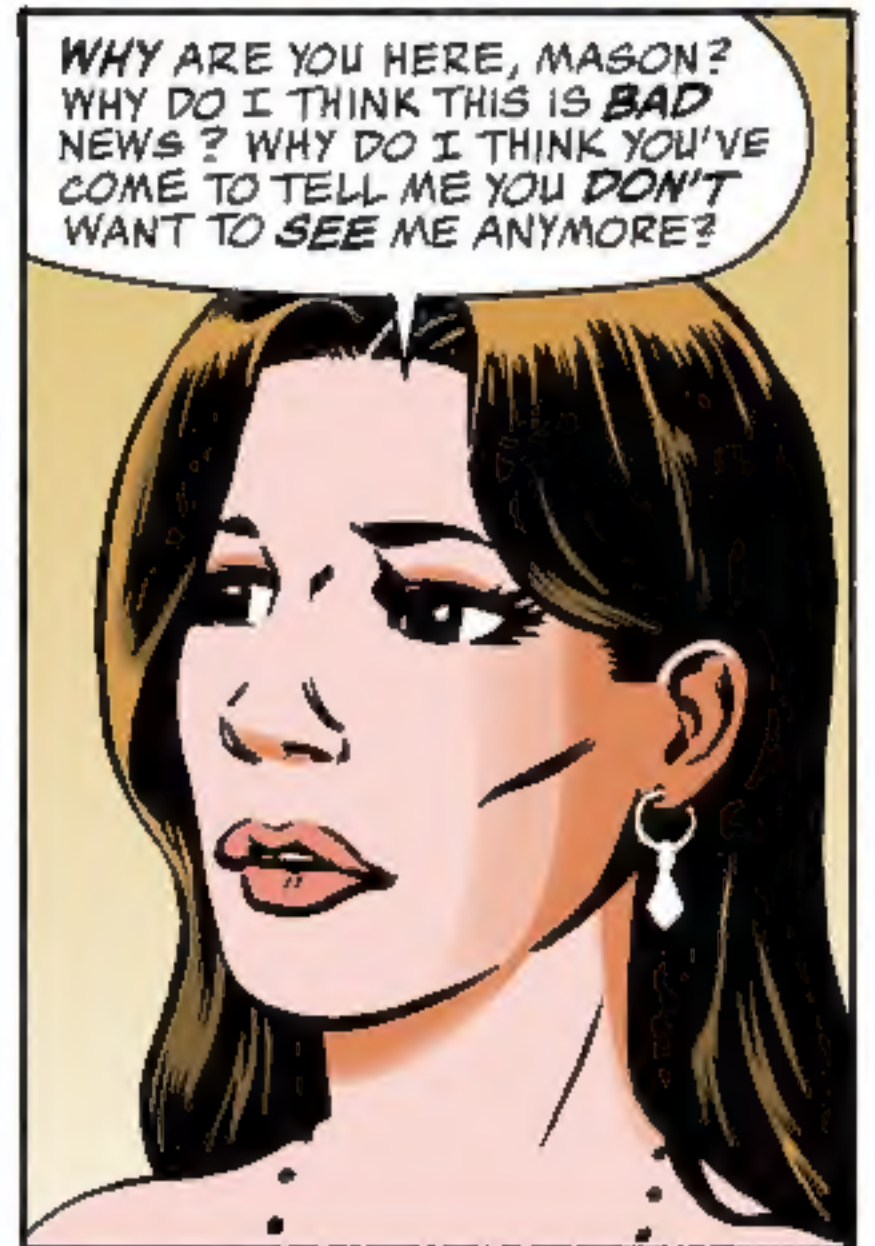
I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU IN A
WHILE.

NO.

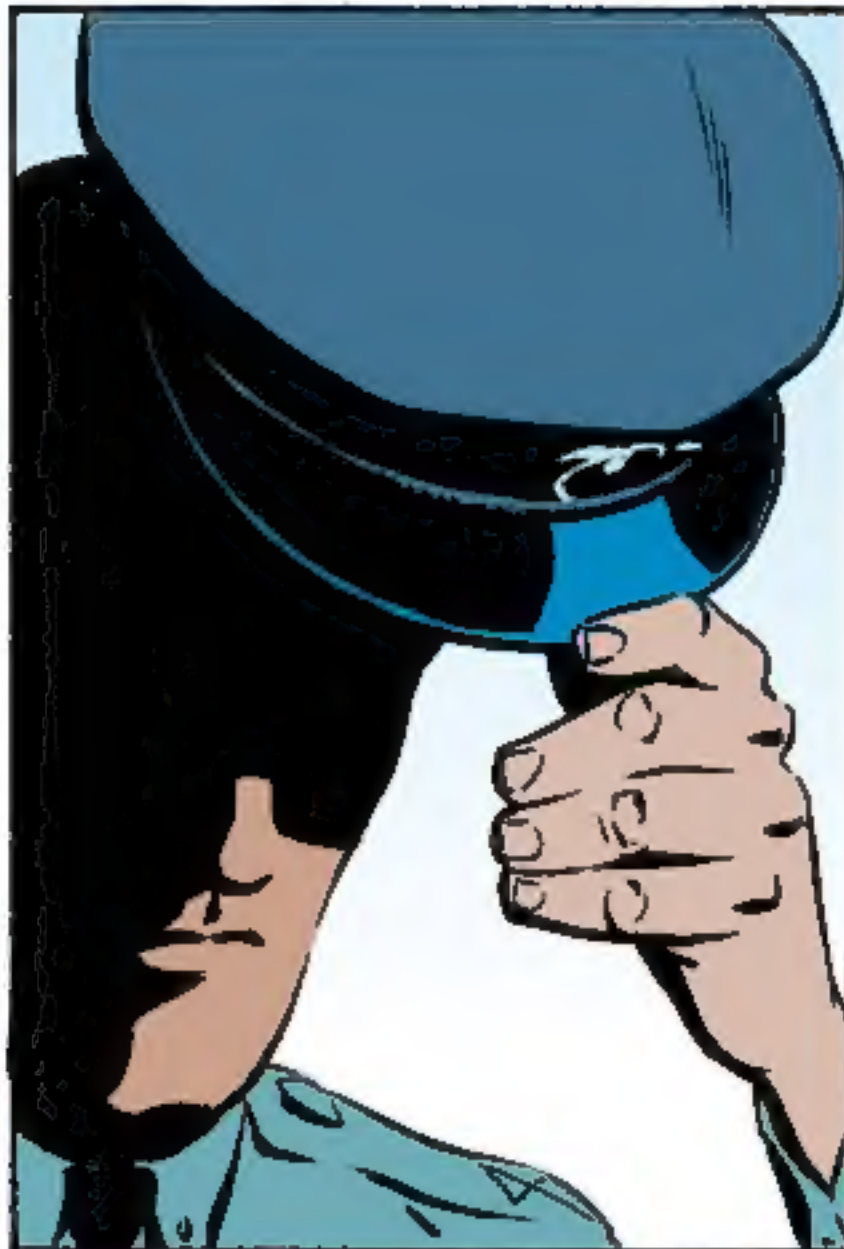


I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
BE **ANGRY**
WITH ME.

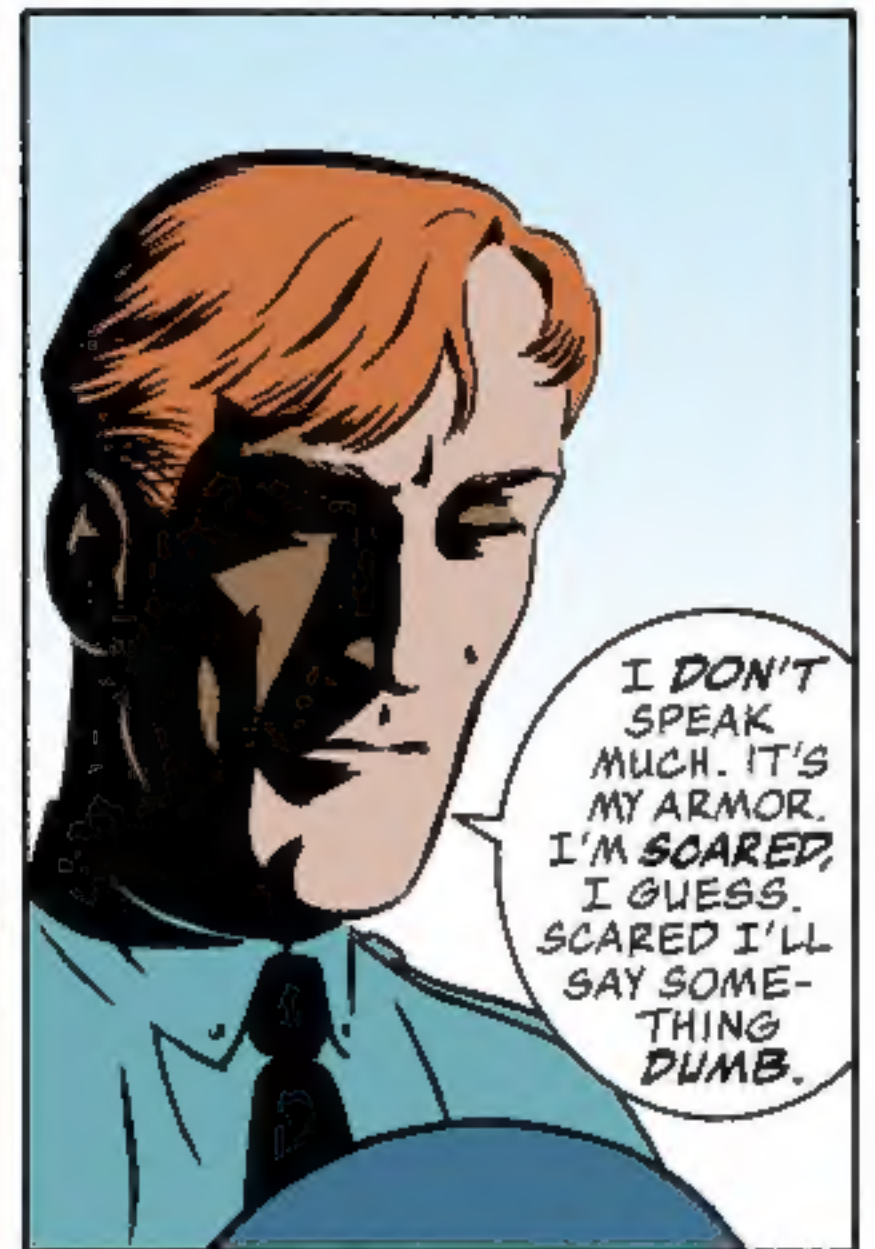
I CALLED YOUR
PRECINCT. WHEN
YOU DIDN'T CALL
ME BACK--!



WHY ARE YOU HERE, MASON?
WHY DO I THINK THIS IS **BAD**
NEWS? WHY DO I THINK YOU'VE
COME TO TELL ME YOU **DON'T**
WANT TO **SEE** ME ANYMORE?



I'VE
BEEN
SILENT LONG
ENOUGH,
CHARITY.



I **DON'T**
SPEAK
MUCH. IT'S
MY ARMOR.
I'M **SCARED**,
I GUESS.
SCARED I'LL
SAY SOME-
THING
DUMB.



BUT I
HAVE TO
SPEAK
NOW.



BECAUSE WHEN YOU WERE IN DANGER, YOU KNOW WHAT? I WAS MORE SCARED THEN... FOR YOU. WHEN MY BROTHER BARRY WENT BAD, IT WAS ALL I CARED ABOUT... UNTIL THE MOMENT HE KIDNAPPED YOU.

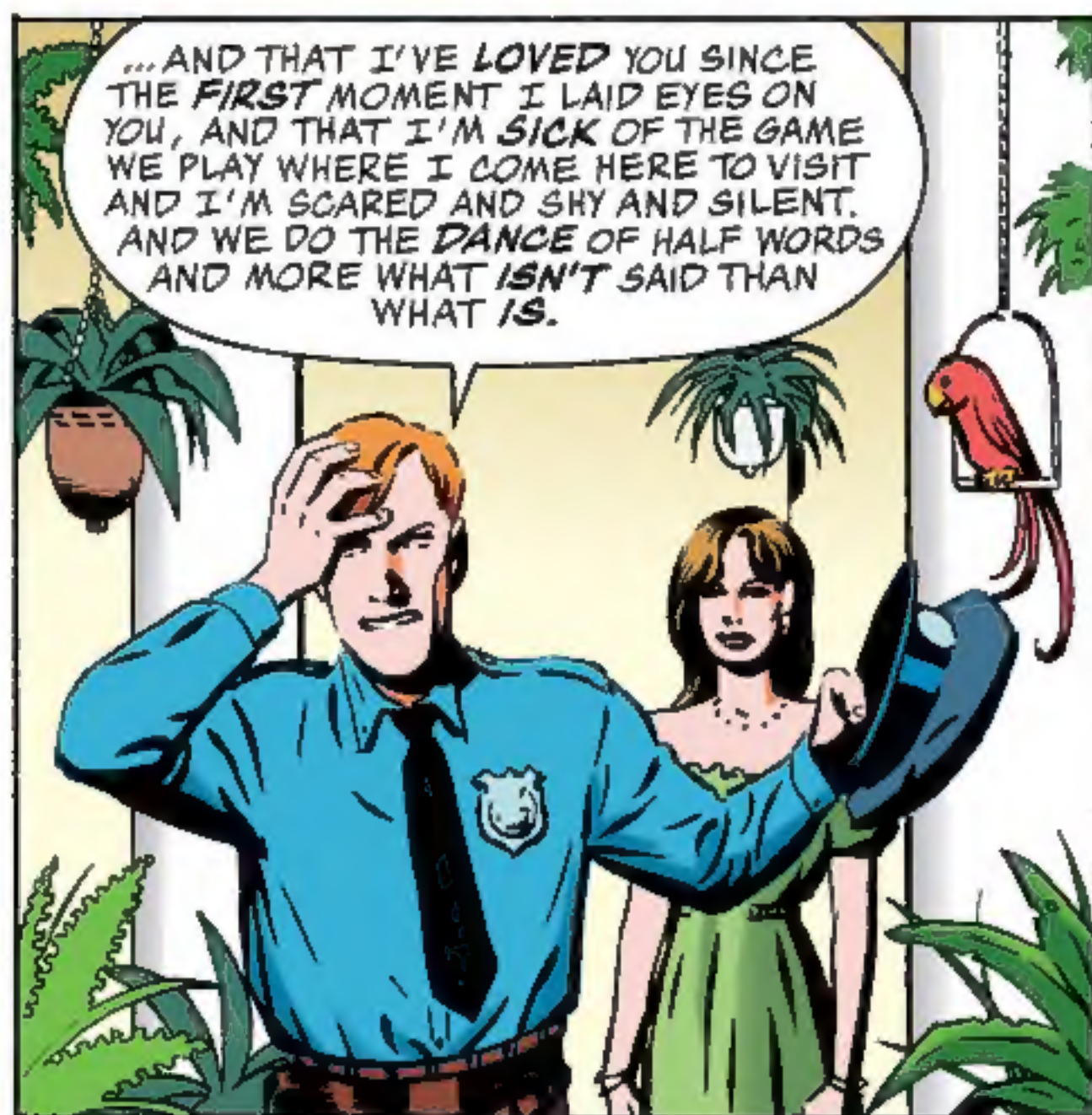


AND THEN ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS GETTING YOU BACK.

ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS TAKING YOU IN MY ARMS AND TELLING YOU...



... I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART...



...AND THAT I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE THE FIRST MOMENT I LAID EYES ON YOU, AND THAT I'M SICK OF THE GAME WE PLAY WHERE I COME HERE TO VISIT AND I'M SCARED AND SHY AND SILENT. AND WE DO THE DANCE OF HALF WORDS AND MORE WHAT ISN'T SAID THAN WHAT IS.



IF YOU HAD DIED, CHARITY, SO WOULD MY WHOLE WORLD.



I CAN'T DO OUR DANCE ANYMORE. LOOK AT ME, I'M CRYING, FOR GOD'S SAKE.



HUSH, BABY, YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH. FROM THE MOMENT YOU WALKED INTO MY LONELY WORLD, I HAVE LOVED YOU SOOO MUCH.

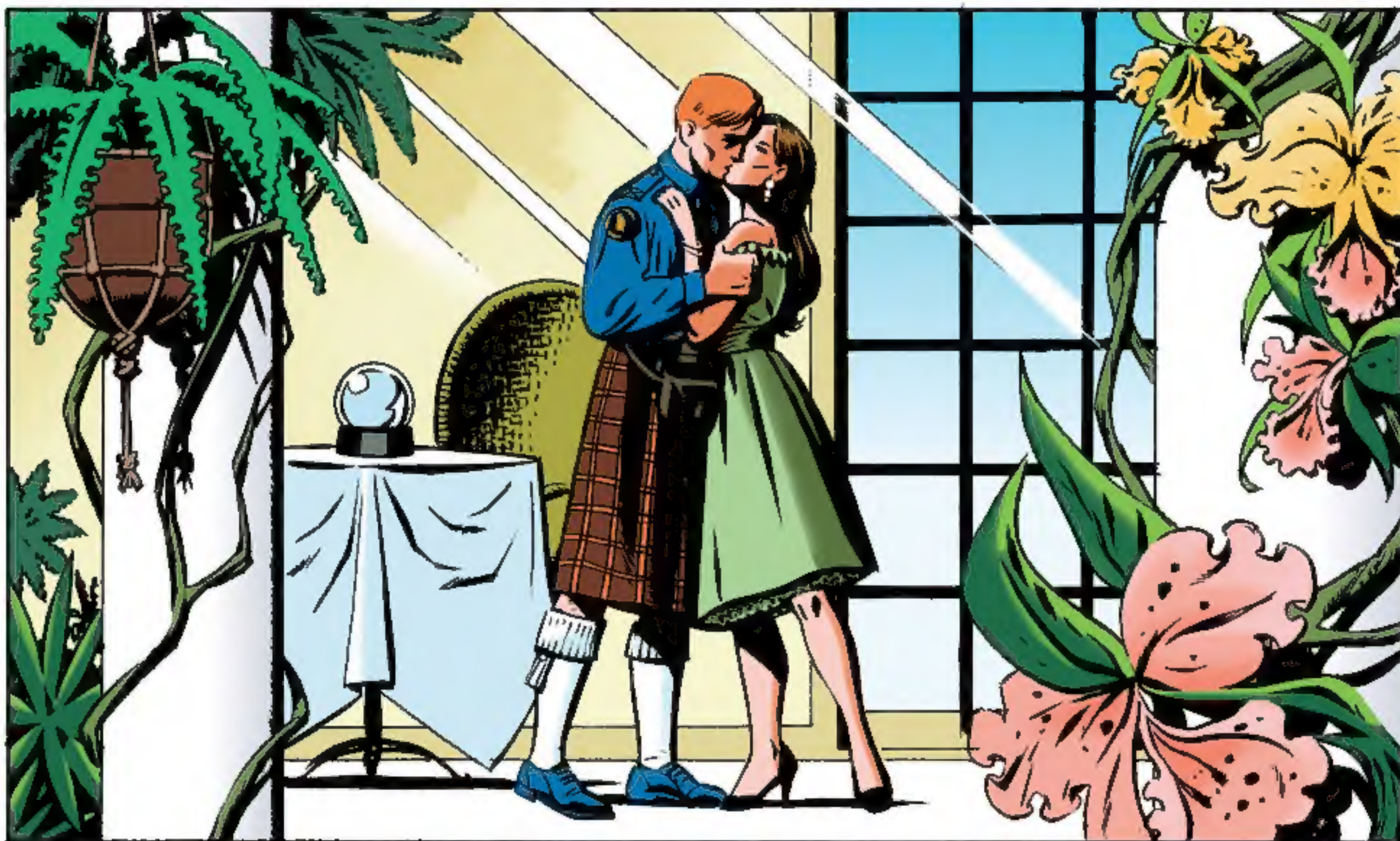
HAVEN'T SAID ENOUGH. ONE MORE THING...



MARRY ME.



YOU BET.



SO I GUESS
SOMEONE'S
HAPPY IN
OPAL.



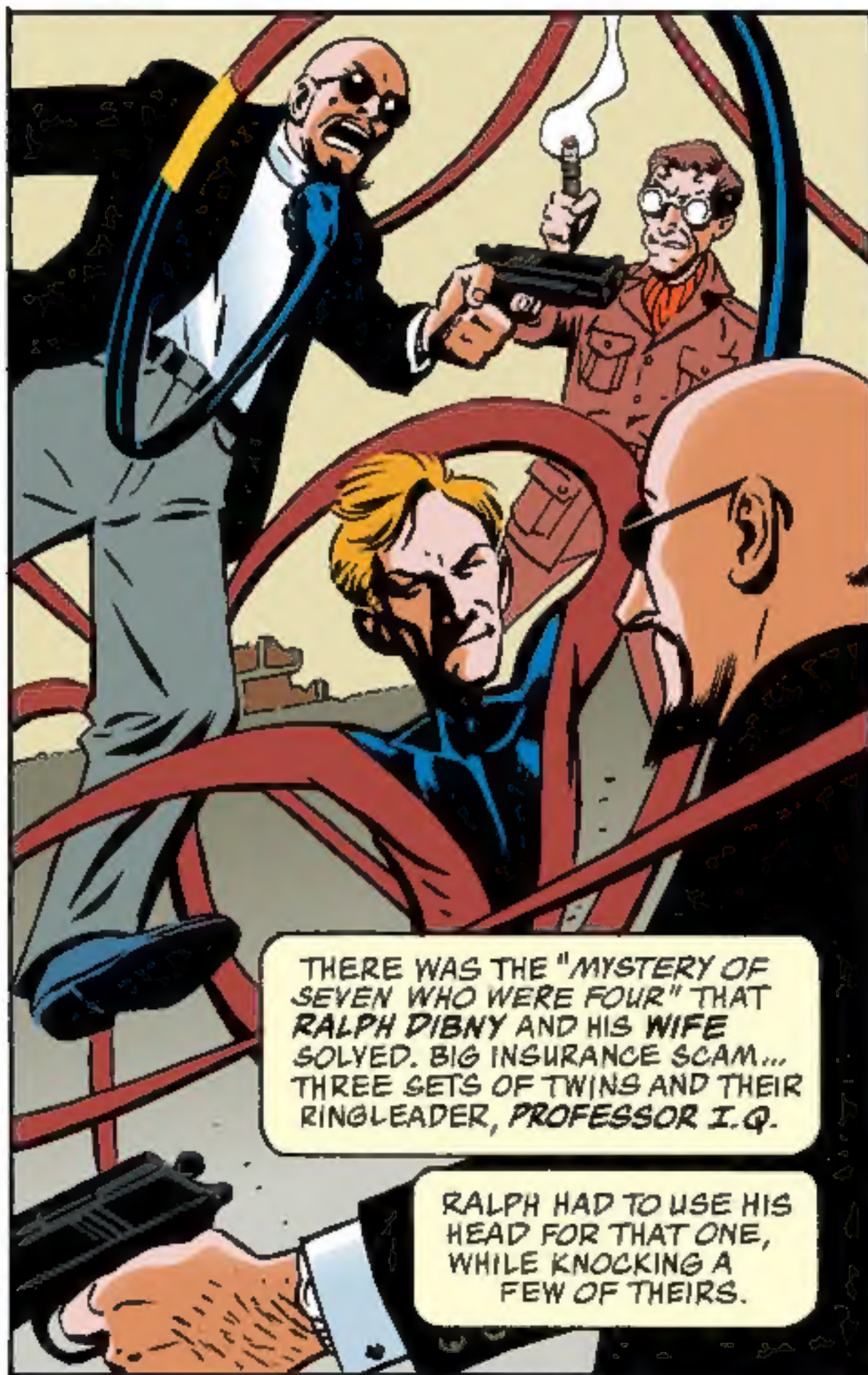
NO, I LIE... A LOT OF
PEOPLE ARE HAPPY.
THEY FEEL SAFE
AGAIN.



IT ISN'T JUST THE
STARMAN GUARDING
THEM ANYMORE.



ALREADY THESE
NEW NAMES FILL
THE HEADLINES.



THERE WAS THE "MYSTERY OF SEVEN WHO WERE FOUR" THAT RALPH DIBNY AND HIS WIFE SOLVED. BIG INSURANCE SCAM... THREE SETS OF TWINS AND THEIR RINGLEADER, PROFESSOR I.Q.

RALPH HAD TO USE HIS HEAD FOR THAT ONE, WHILE KNOCKING A FEW OF THEIRS.



OTHER MYSTERIES ARE GETTING SOLVED BY HAMILTON DREW, WHO AFTER TAKING THAT FIRST STEP INTO THE WORLD OF TODAY OPENED HIS OWN CONSULTING PRACTICE.



BOBO WENT BACK TO HIS JOB GUARDING THE BANK... LONGING FOR THE QUIET LIFE AGAIN... AND IMMEDIATELY GOT DRAGGED INTO A CRAZY ADVENTURE INVOLVING THE MAD MOD.

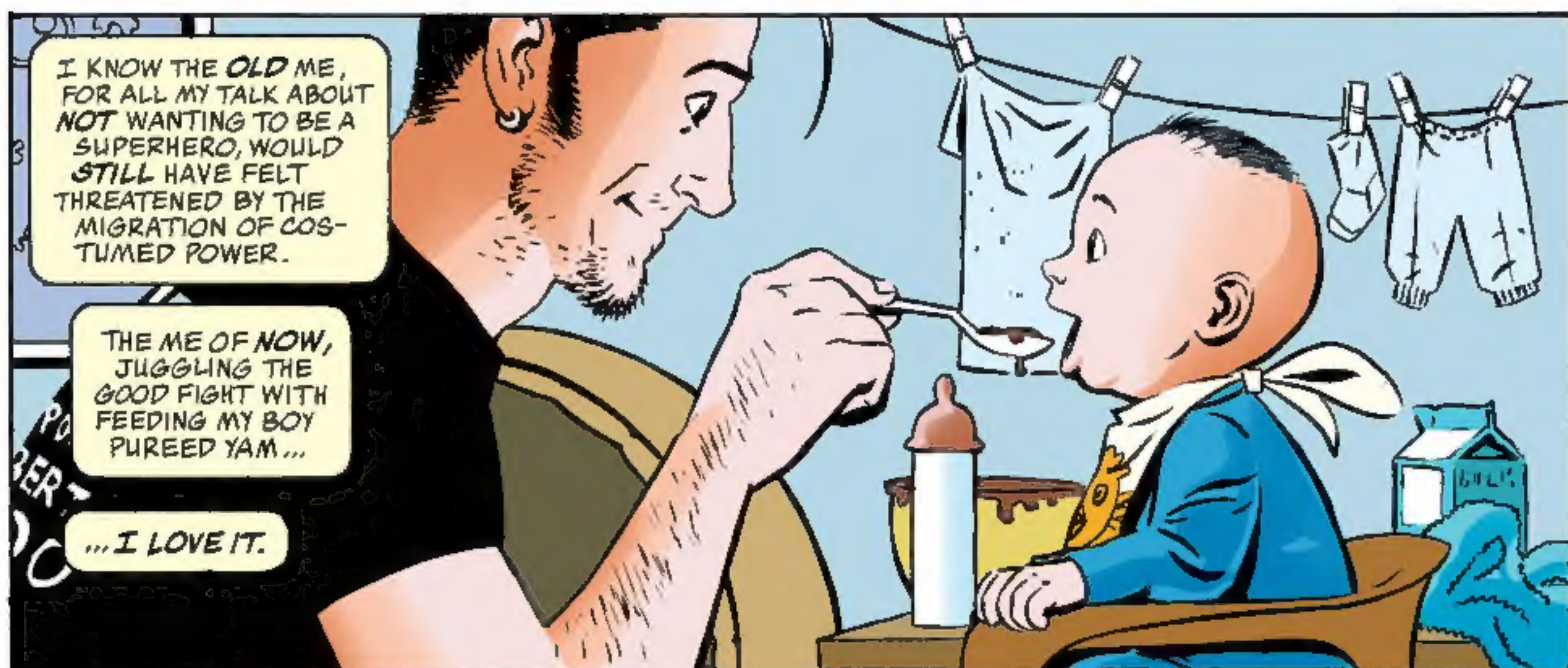
1950'S GUY VERSUS 1960'S GUY. "BATTLE OF THE DECADES," THE PAPERS CALLED IT.



AND THEN THERE'S THE BLACK CONDOR.

I GUESS HE REALLY LOVES HIS LIFE HERE... THE SENSE THAT HE HAS A HOME AND PEOPLE WHO VALUE HIS PRESENCE...

...FOR EVERY NIGHT HE'S OUT GUARDING THEM.



I KNOW THE **OLD ME**,
FOR ALL MY TALK ABOUT
NOT WANTING TO BE A
SUPERHERO, WOULD
STILL HAVE FELT
THREATENED BY THE
MIGRATION OF COS-
TUMED POWER.

THE ME OF **NOW**,
JUGGLING THE
GOOD FIGHT WITH
FEEDING MY BOY
PUREED YAM...

...I LOVE IT.



SO HERE I AM.

TIRED.

LOST.



I CAME HERE TO MY
DAD'S MUSEUM
HOPING FOR...

...I'M **NOT** SURE WHAT
I HOPED FOR.

AN **ANSWER**,
I GUESS.

CLARITY.

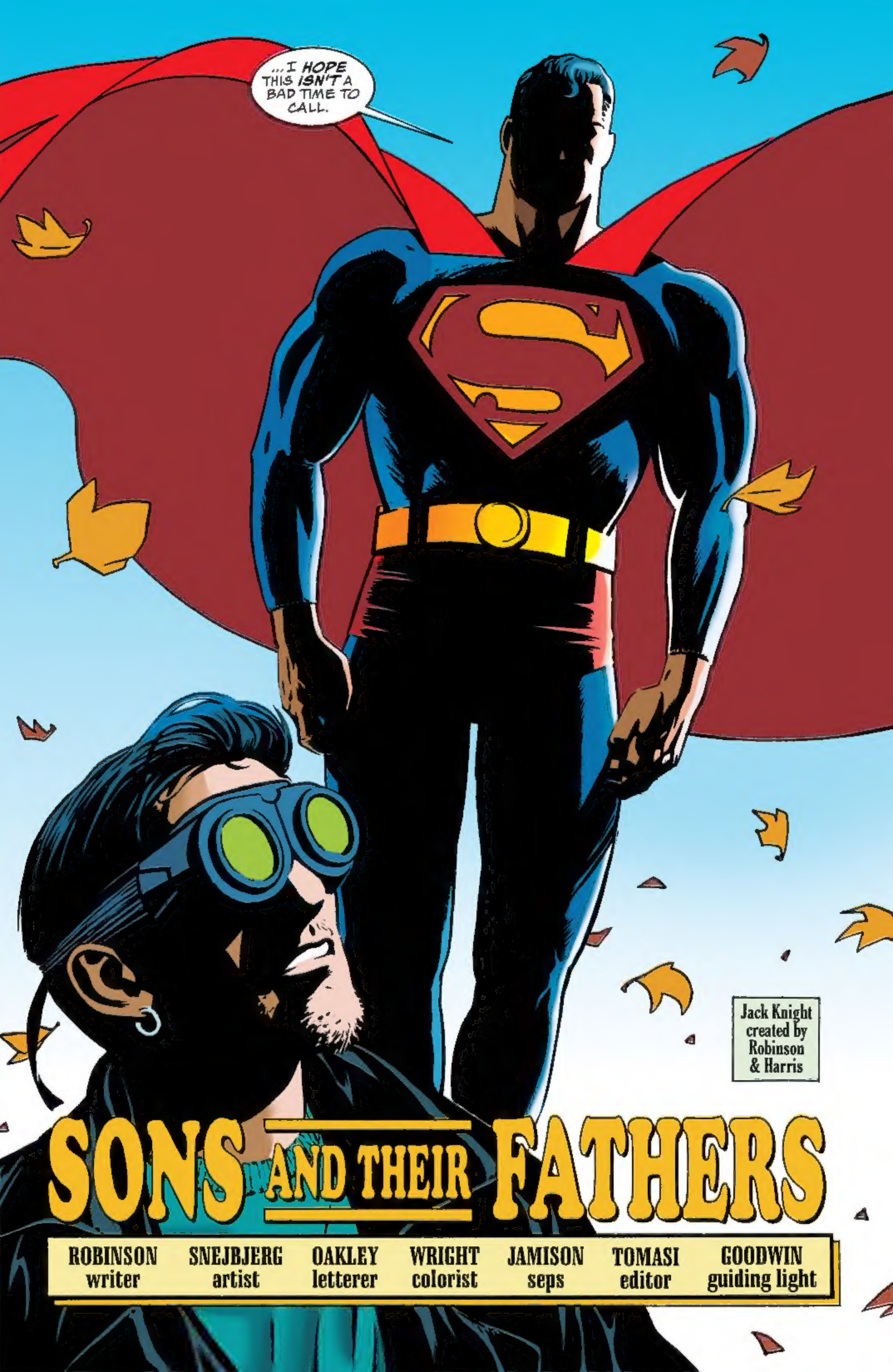


I HAVE LIT THE DARKNESS.
WHO NOW WILL **SHINE**
UPON MY OWN JET SOUL?

MY FATHER'S DEAD. WHO
ELSE IS **BIG** ENOUGH IN
MY EYES TO **LIGHT** MY WAY?



HELLO,
JACK...

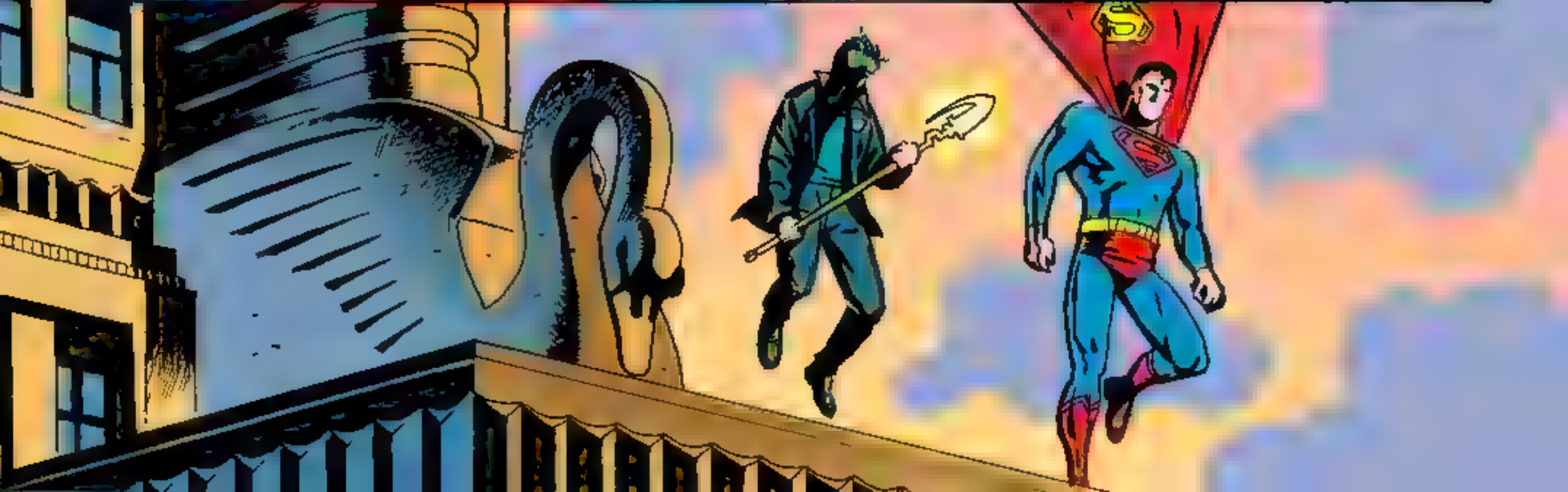
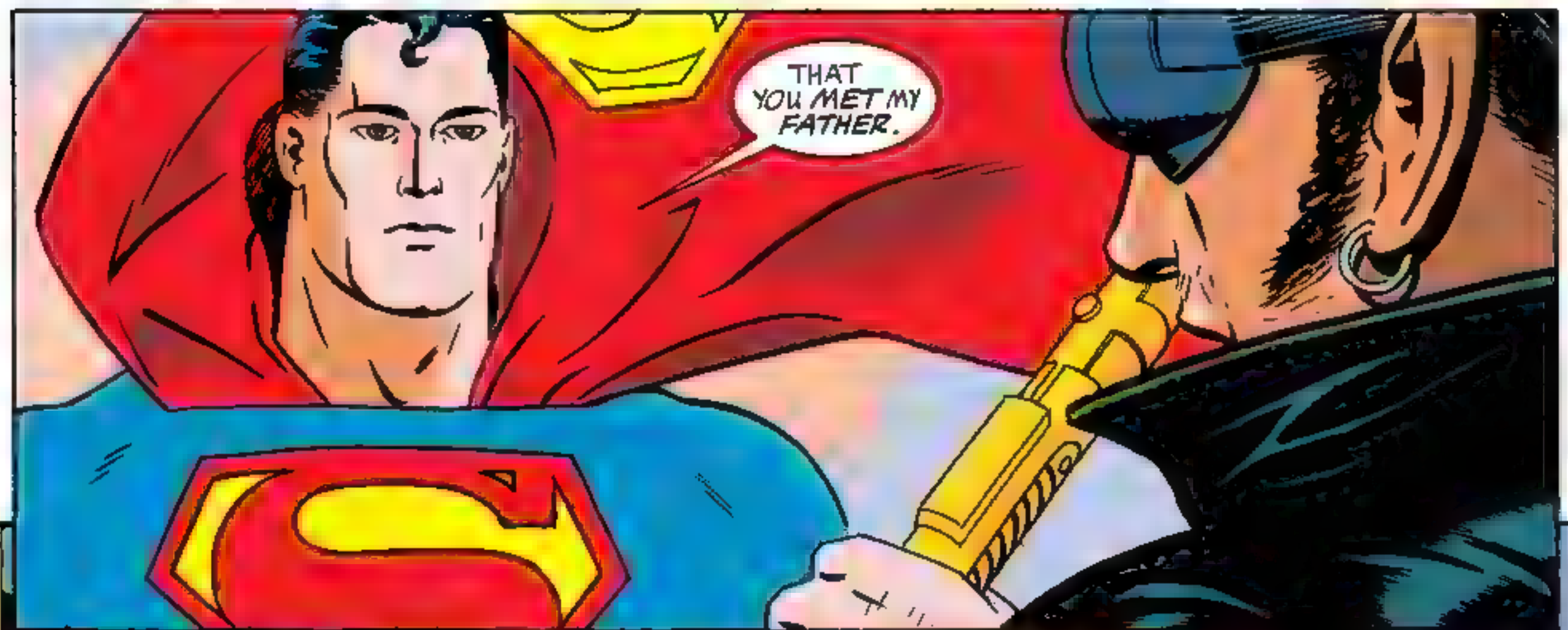
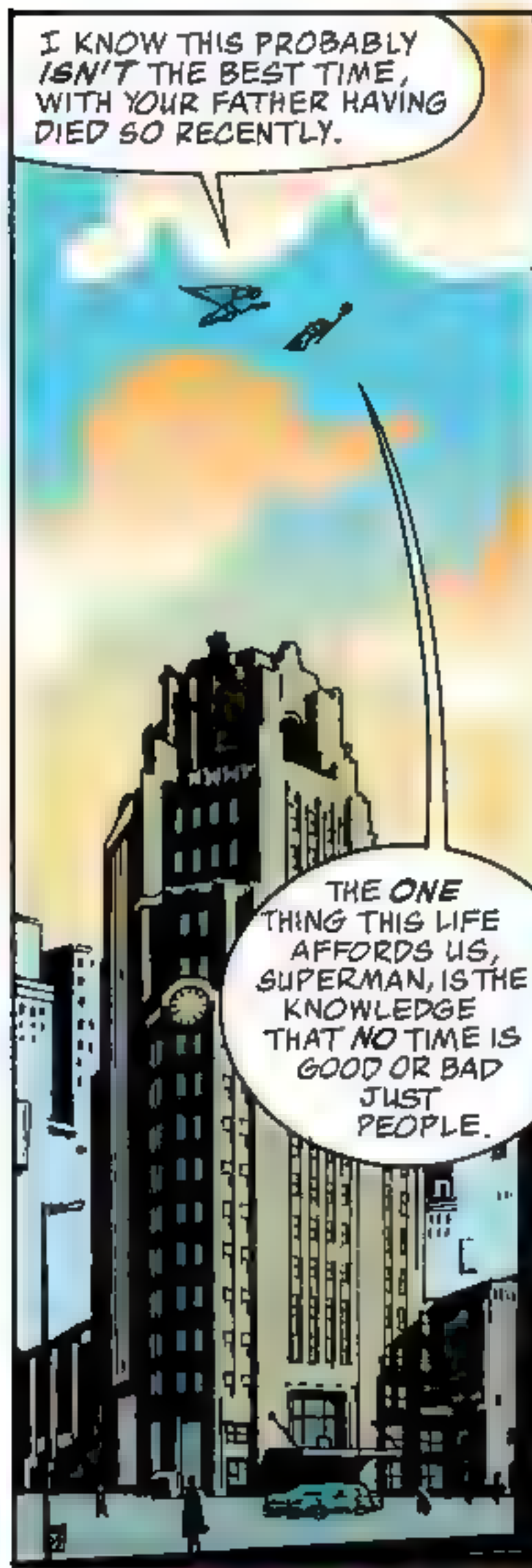


...I HOPE
THIS ISN'T A
BAD TIME TO
CALL.

Jack Knight
created by
Robinson
& Harris

SONS AND THEIR FATHERS

ROBINSON	SNEJBORG	OAKLEY	WRIGHT	JAMISON	TOMASI	GOODWIN
writer	artist	letterer	colorist	seps	editor	guiding light





I DID. YEAH.
I MET YOUR DAD.
HAD MY LIFE SAVED
BY HIM, MORE TO THE
POINT.

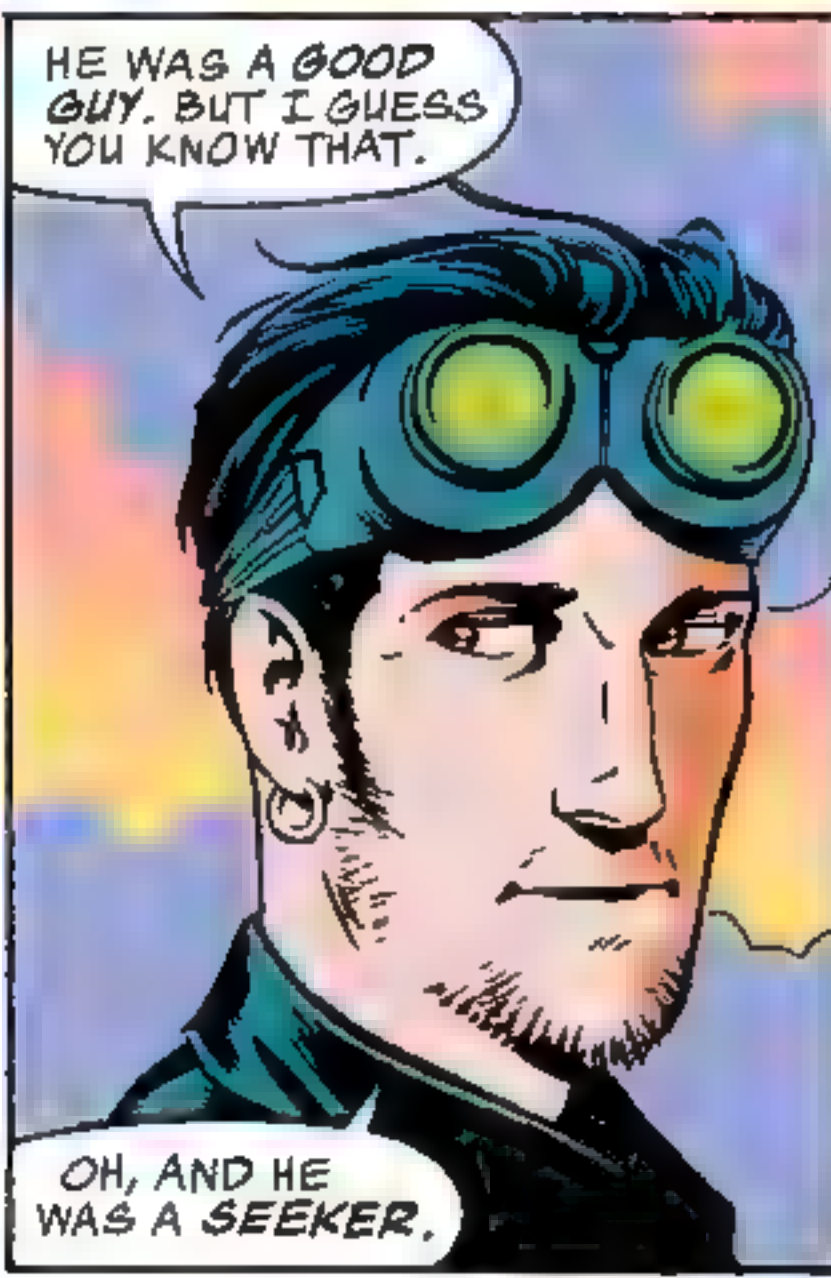
WHAT
DID YOU
WANT TO
KNOW?

I HAVE RECORDS OF MY
FATHER. OVER THE YEARS
I'VE AMASSED QUITE A
COLLECTION OF HOLOGRAMS
OF LIFE ON KRYPTON. IN
THIS WAY I'VE MET MY
FATHER, AFTER A FASHION.

BUT THE PERSON
I "KNOW" IS JOR-EL
THE MAN. I DON'T KNOW
WHAT HE WAS LIKE AT THE
AGE YOU MET HIM.

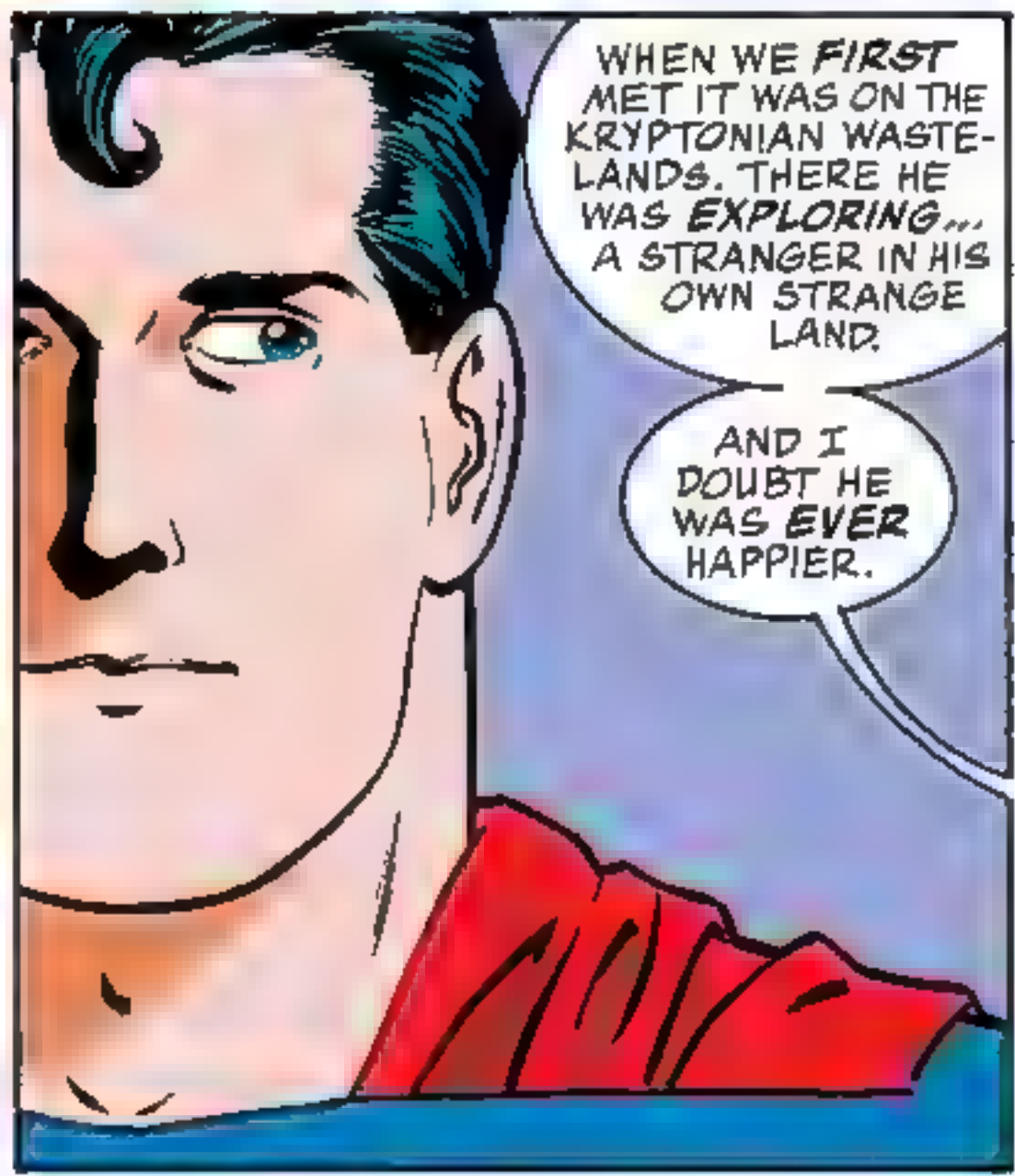


I'D
LIKE
TO.



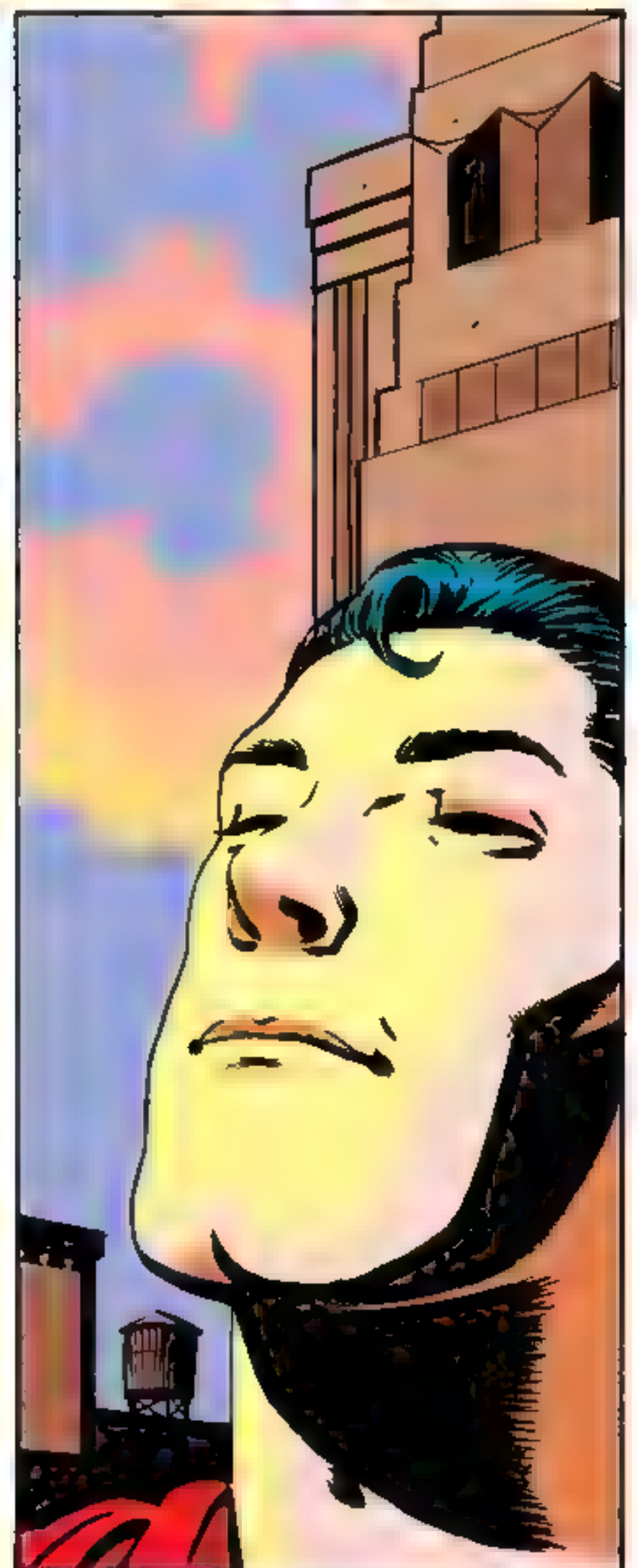
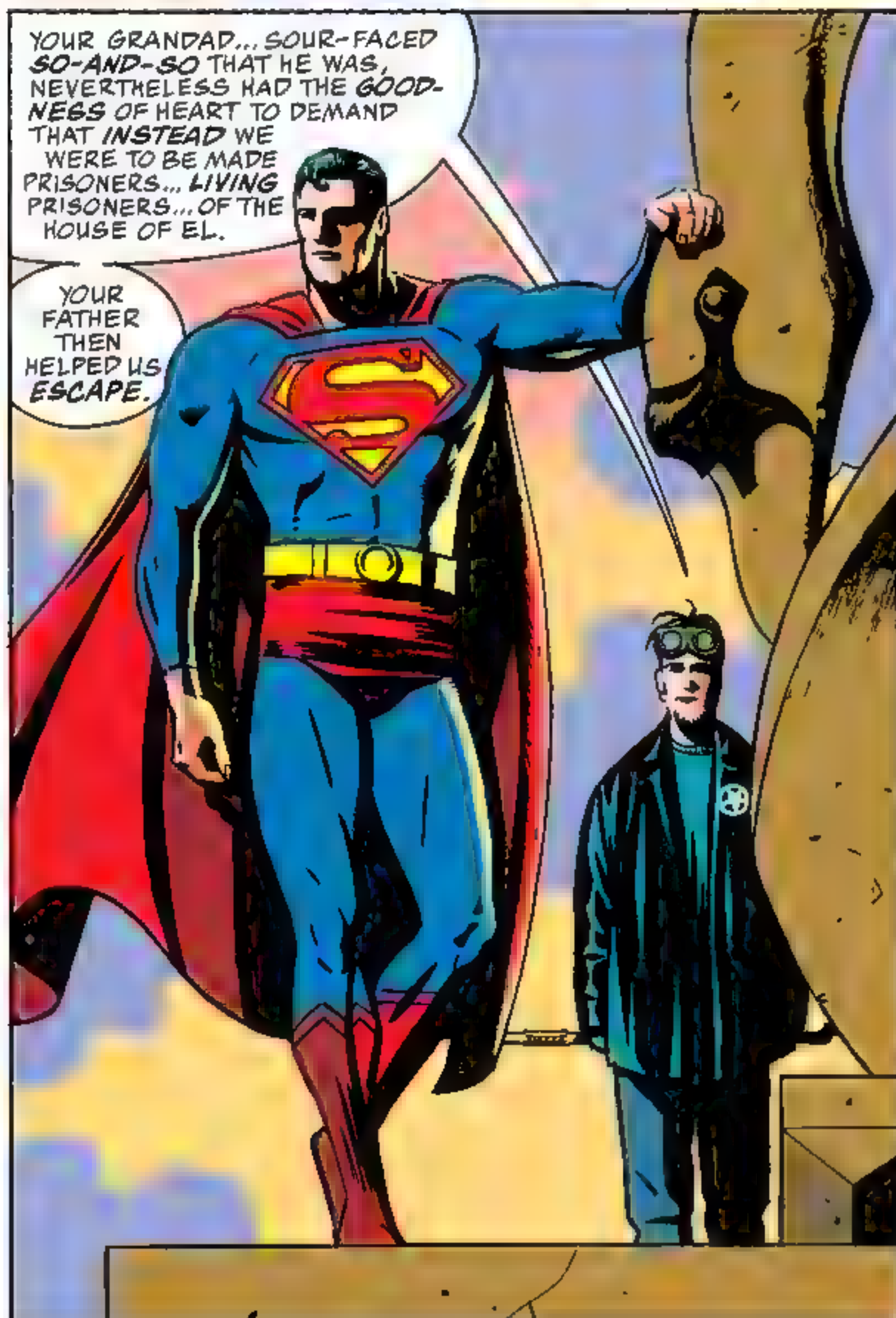
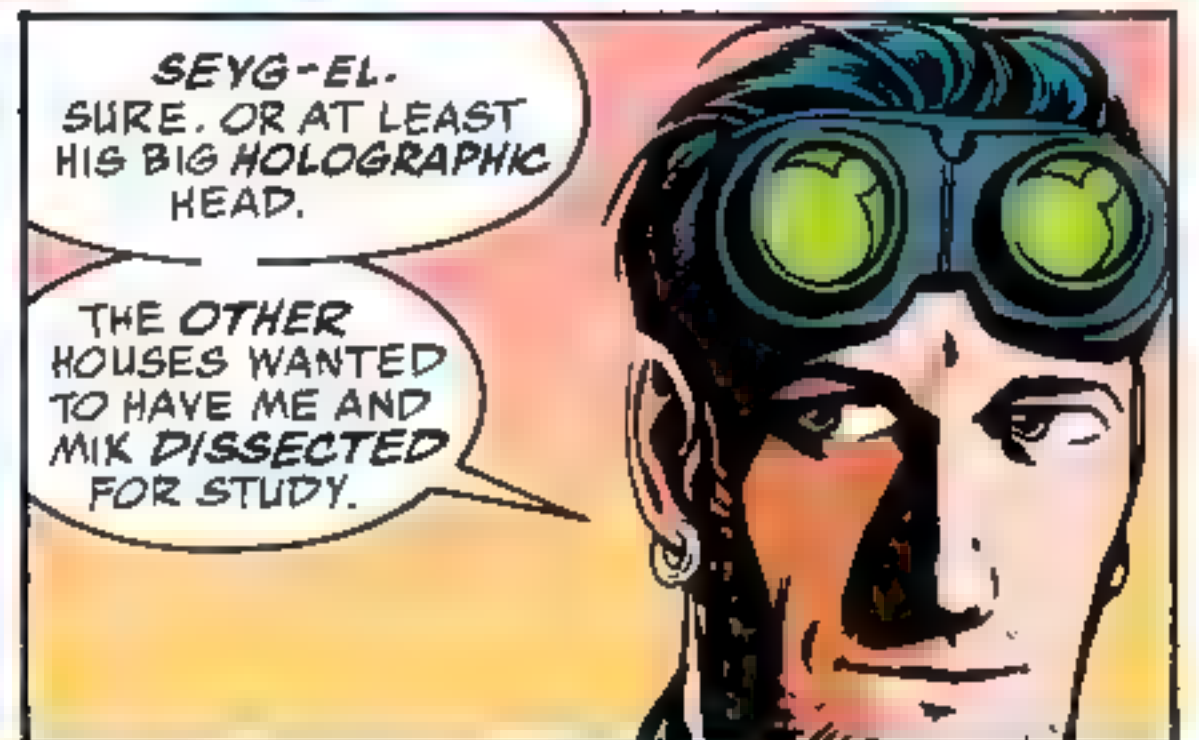
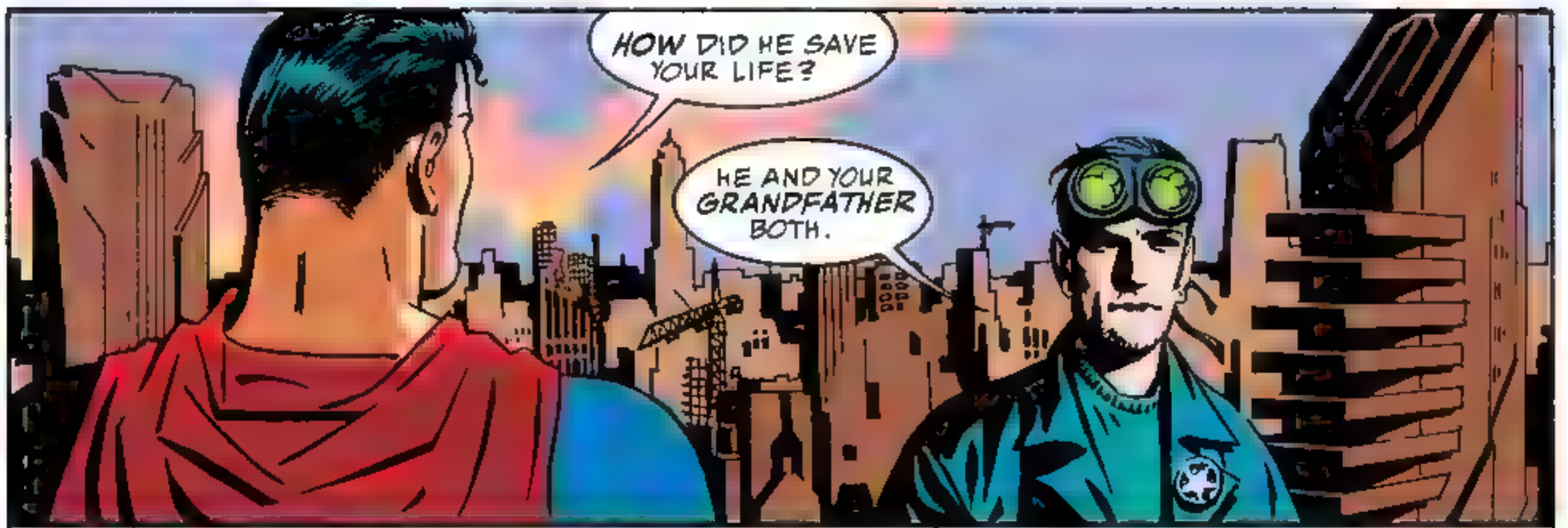
HE WAS A GOOD
GUY. BUT I GUESS
YOU KNOW THAT.

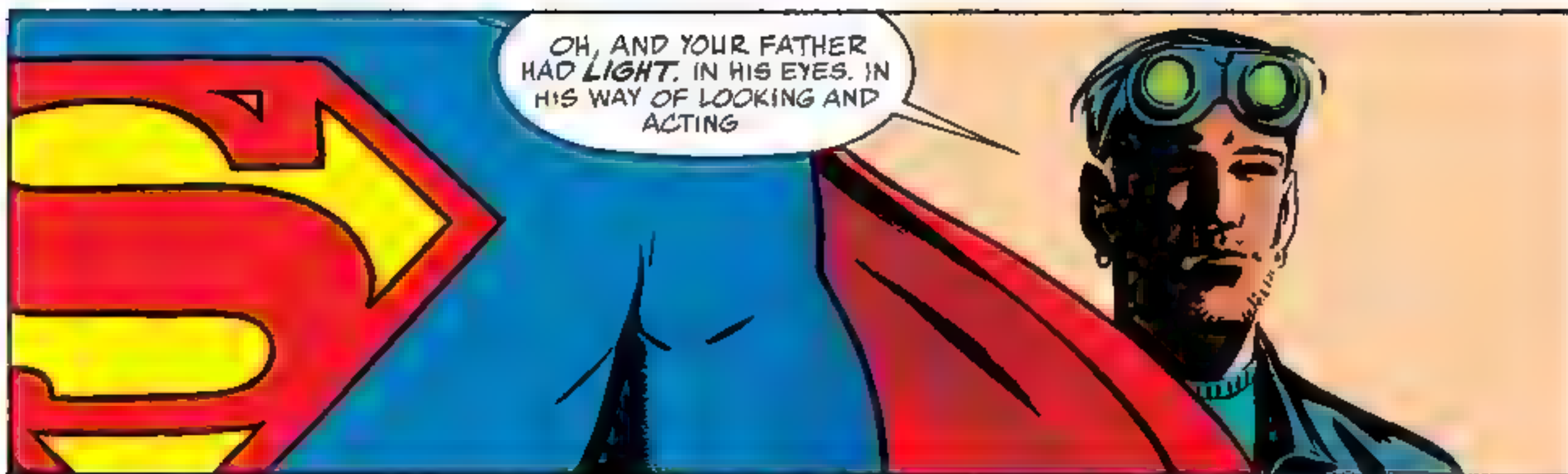
OH, AND HE
WAS A SEEKER.



WHEN WE FIRST
MET IT WAS ON THE
KRYPTONIAN WASTE-
LANDS. THERE HE
WAS EXPLORING...
A STRANGER IN HIS
OWN STRANGE
LAND.

AND I
DOUBT HE
WAS EVER
HAPPIER.





OH, AND YOUR FATHER
HAD **LIGHT**. IN HIS EYES. IN
HIS WAY OF LOOKING AND
ACTING



IN THE RECORDS I'VE SEEN, I
LOOK FOR THAT... THE THING THAT SET
HIM **APART**. THE THING THAT **MADE**
HIM GO AGAINST **ALL** RATIONAL WISDOM,
DECIDE KRYPTON WAS DOOMED AND
THEN HAVE THE **FURTHER** RESOLVE
TO SEND HIS SON INTO SPACE.



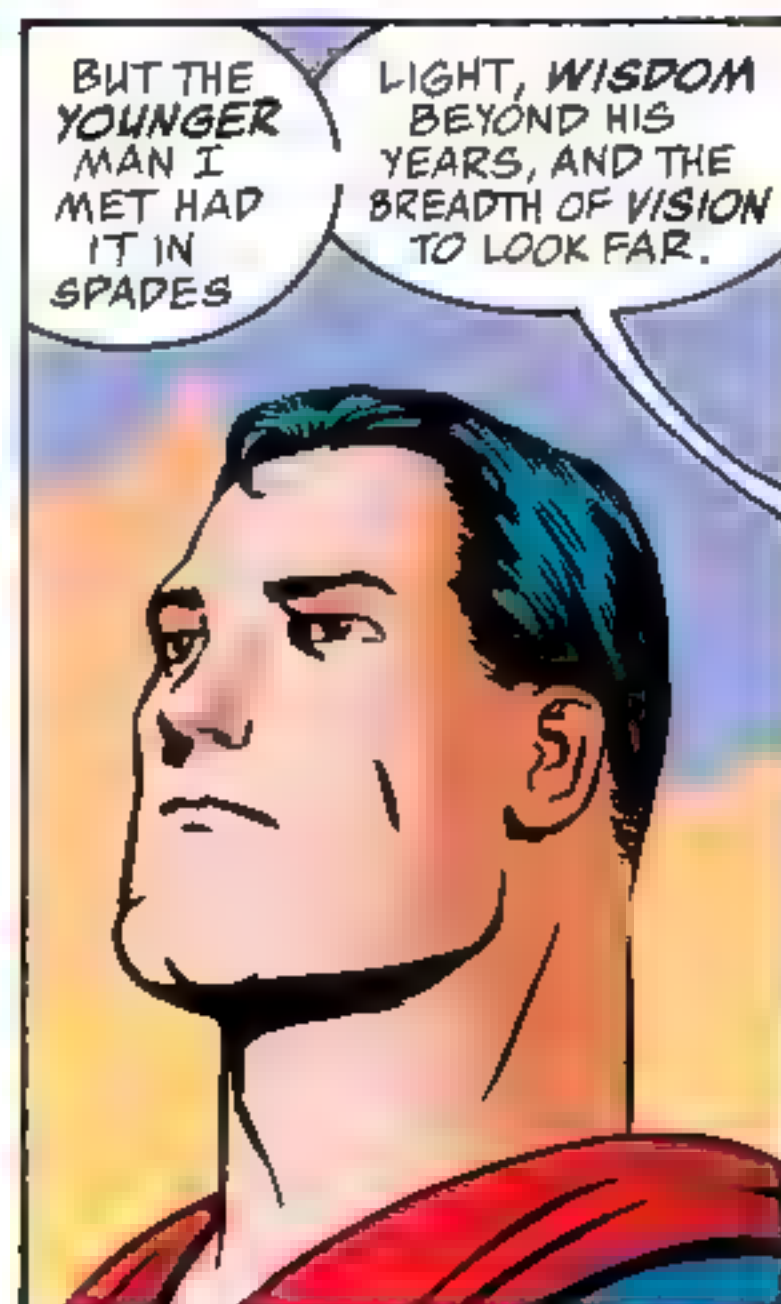
I'VE **SEEN**
THAT FIERCE
RESOLUTION.

BUT **NOT**
THE LIGHT YOU
MENTION



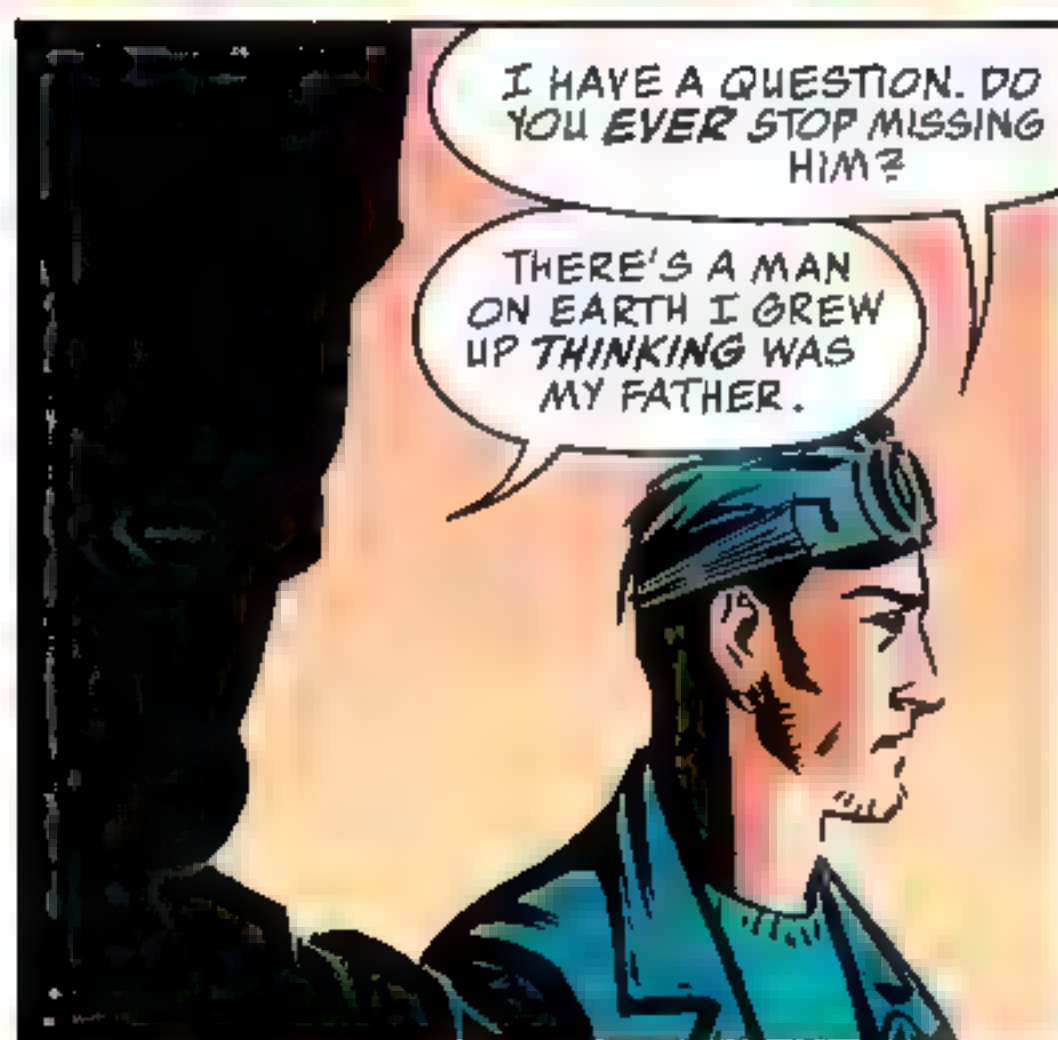
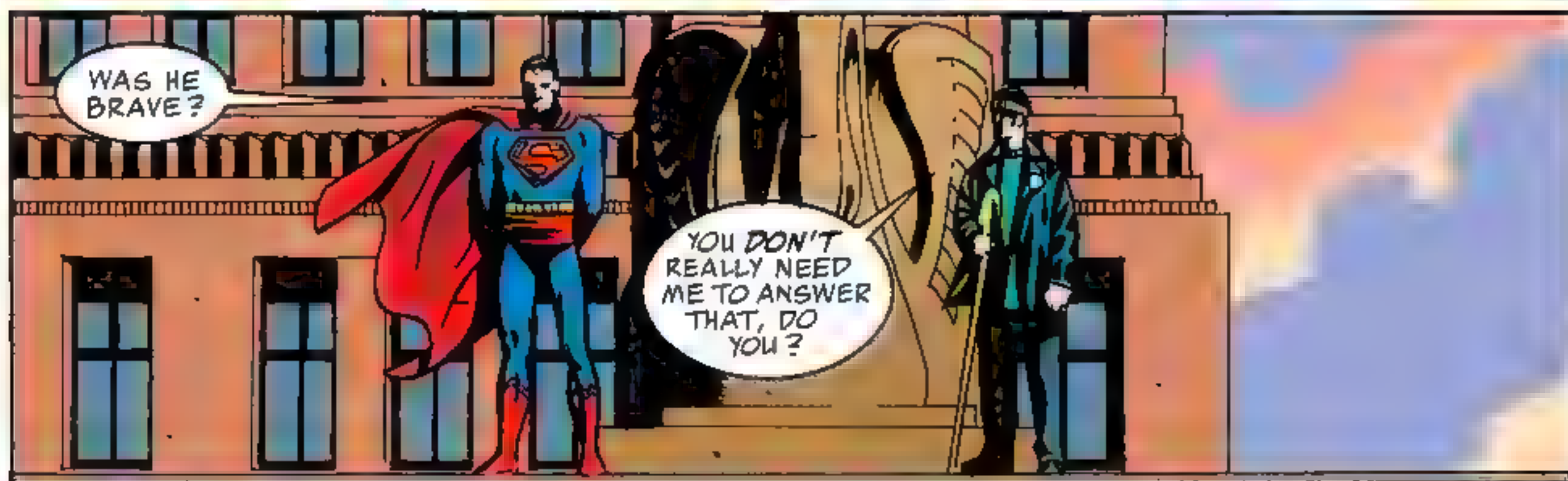
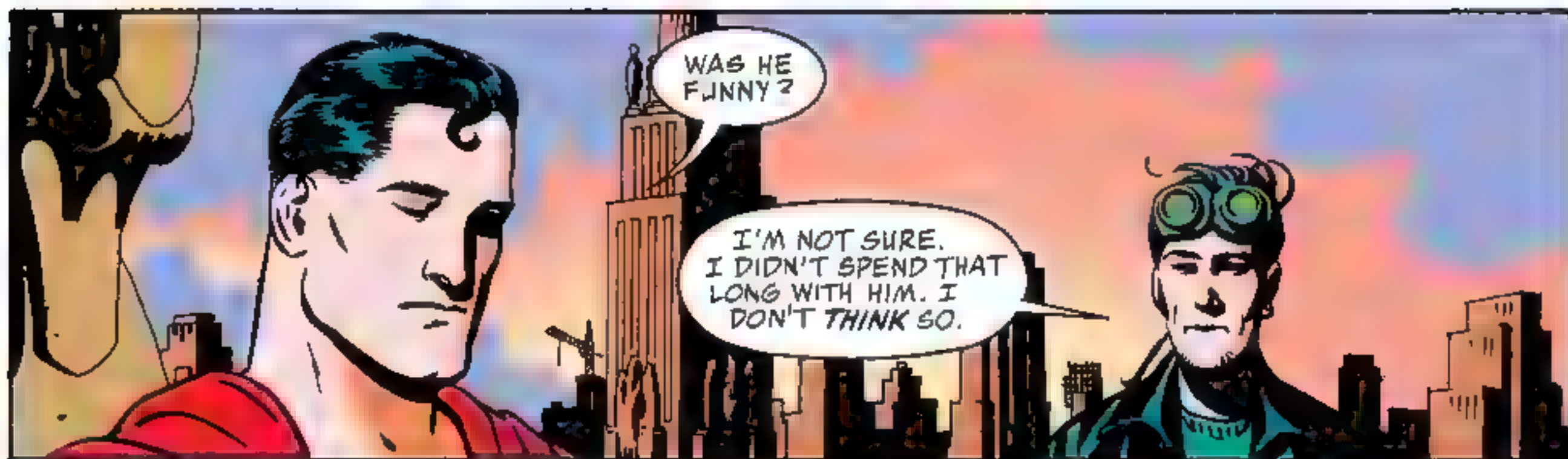
BEAR IN MIND THE
MAN HE HAD TO
BECOME, JUST
BY LIVING IN THAT
SOCIETY.

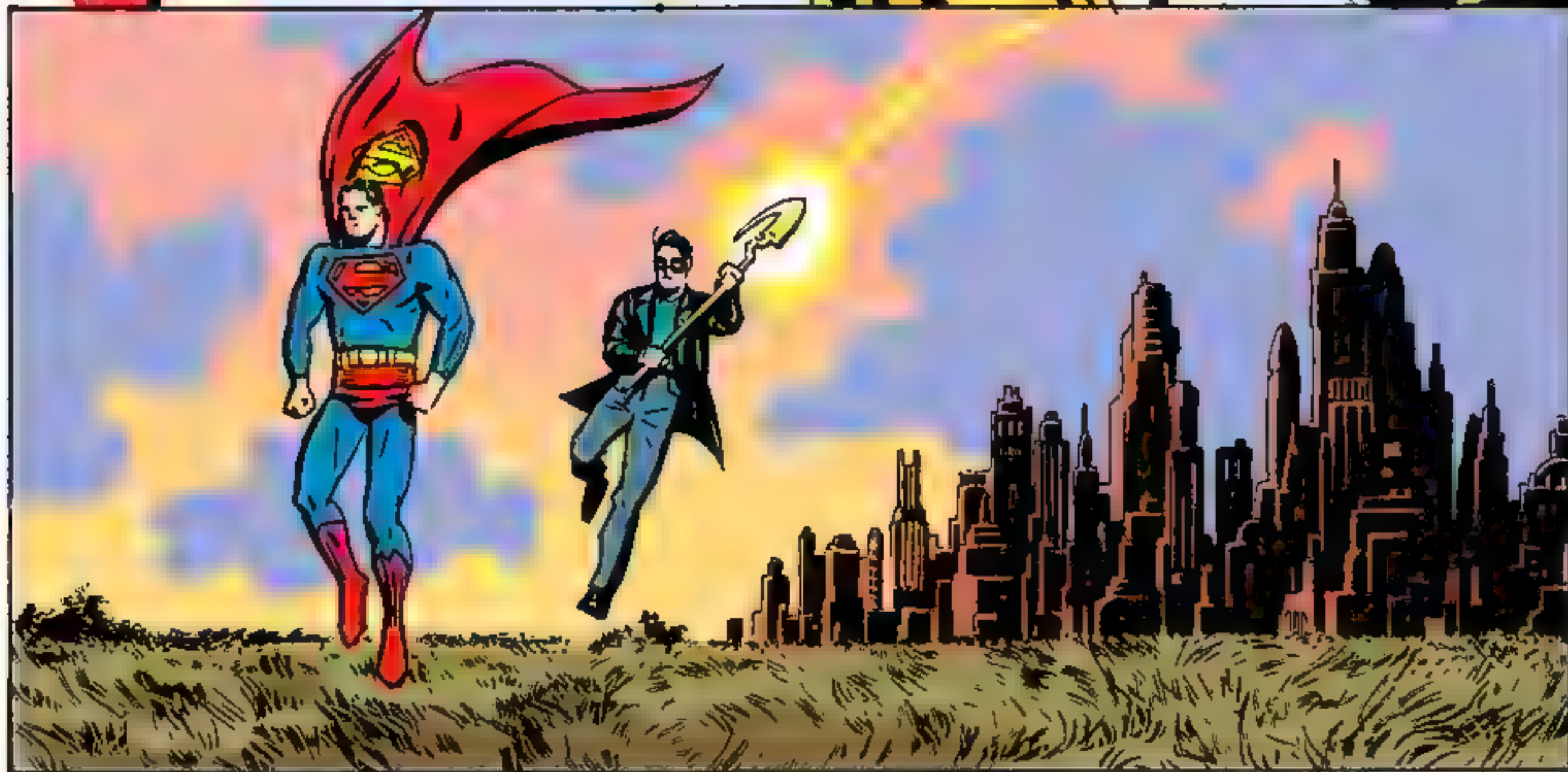
MAYBE HE
LEARNED IT WAS
EASIER TO
FUNCTION THERE
IF HE HID THAT
LIGHT AWAY.

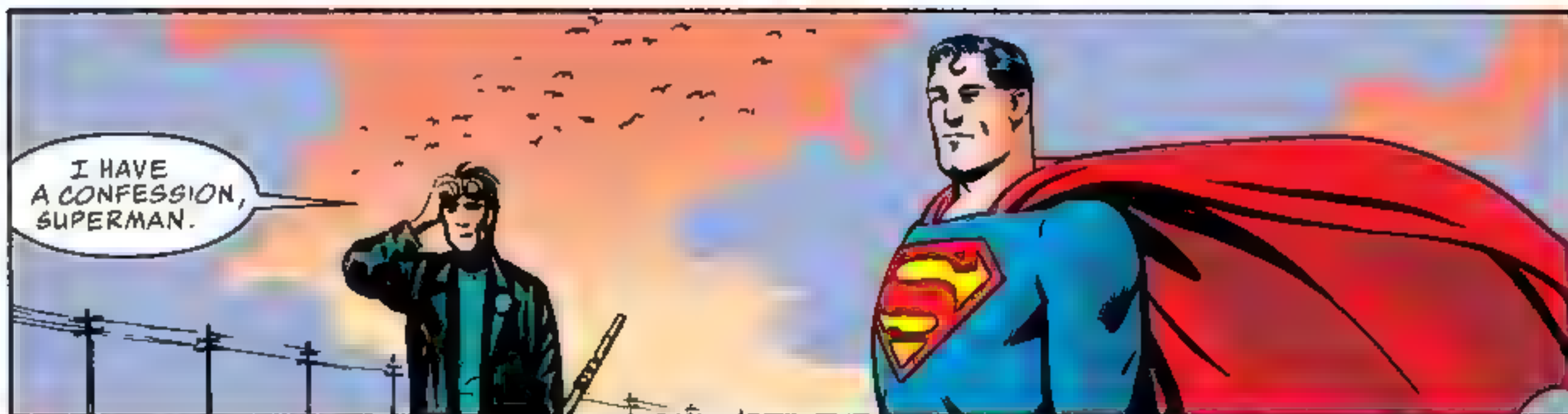


BUT THE
YOUNGER
MAN I
MET HAD
IT IN
SPADES

LIGHT, **WISDOM**
BEYOND HIS
YEARS, AND THE
BREADTH OF VISION
TO LOOK FAR.



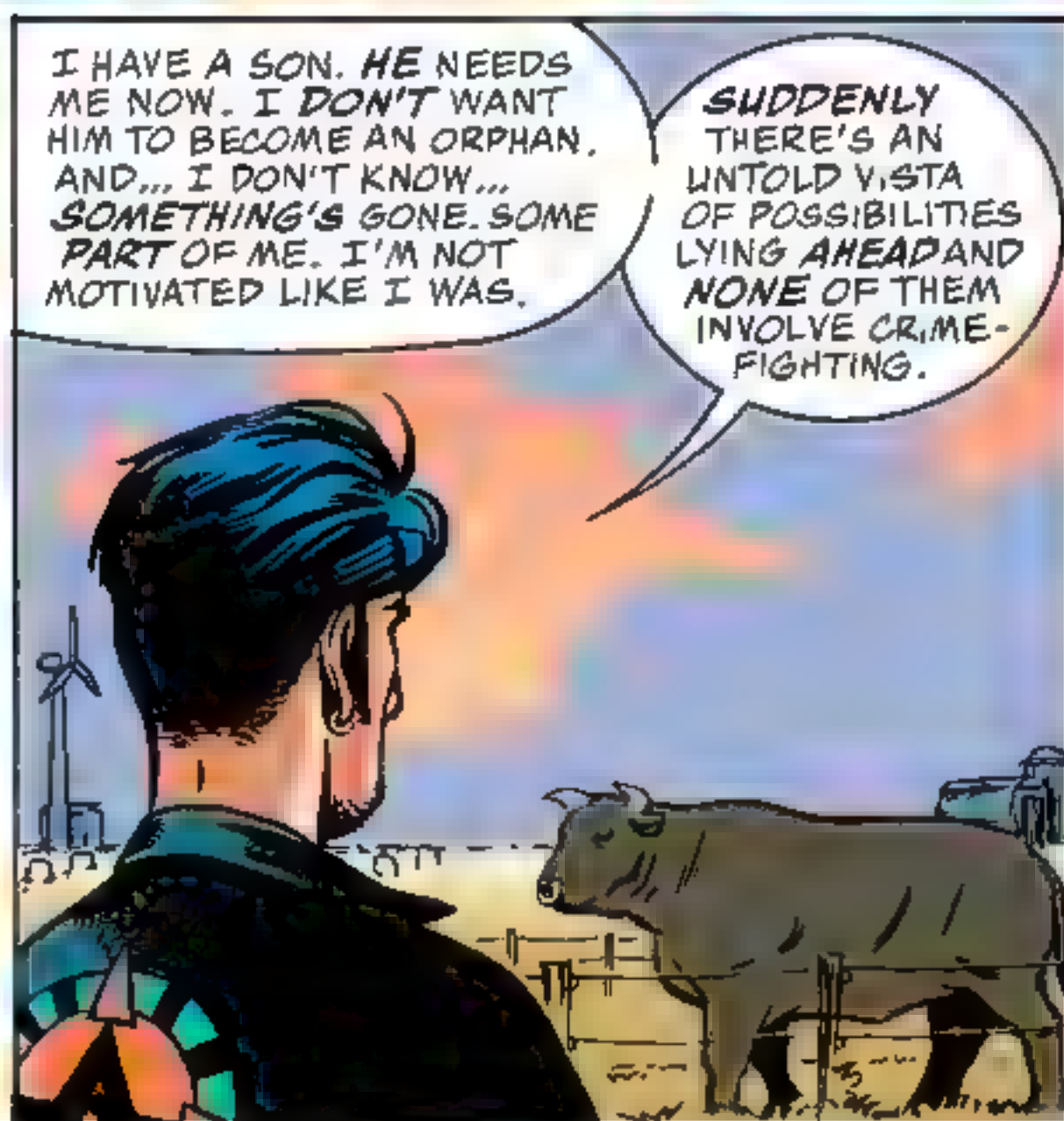




I HAVE A CONFESSION, SUPERMAN.



I'M THINKING OF GIVING IT UP. SUPERHEROICS.

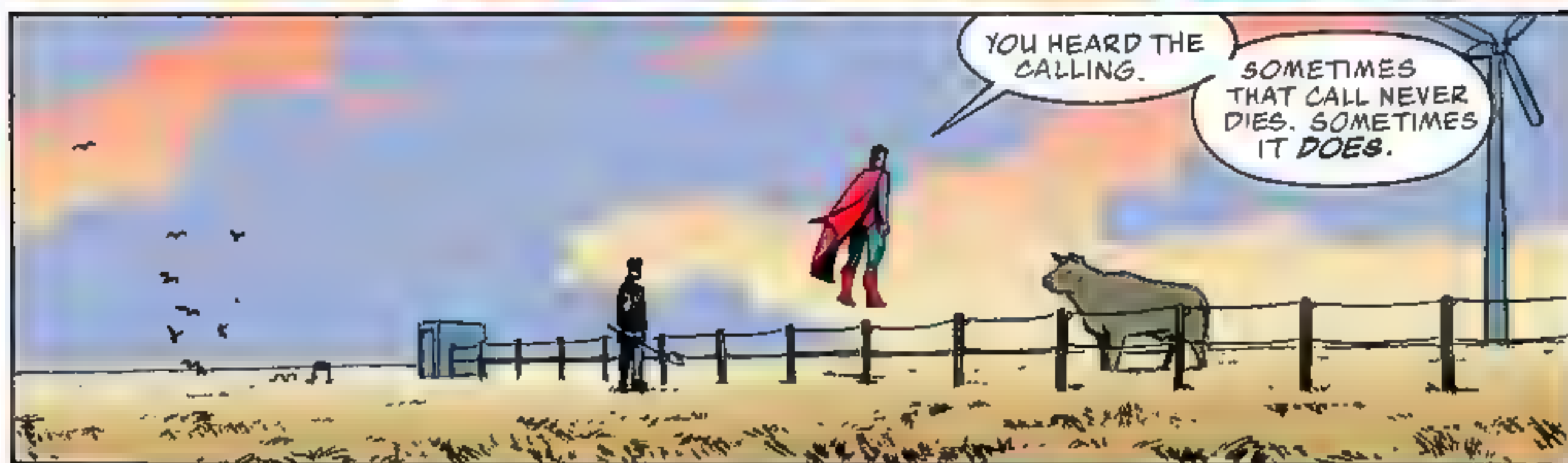


I HAVE A SON. HE NEEDS ME NOW. I DON'T WANT HIM TO BECOME AN ORPHAN. AND... I DON'T KNOW... SOMETHING'S GONE. SOME PART OF ME. I'M NOT MOTIVATED LIKE I WAS.

SUDDENLY THERE'S AN UNTOLD VISTA OF POSSIBILITIES LYING AHEAD AND NONE OF THEM INVOLVE CRIME-FIGHTING.

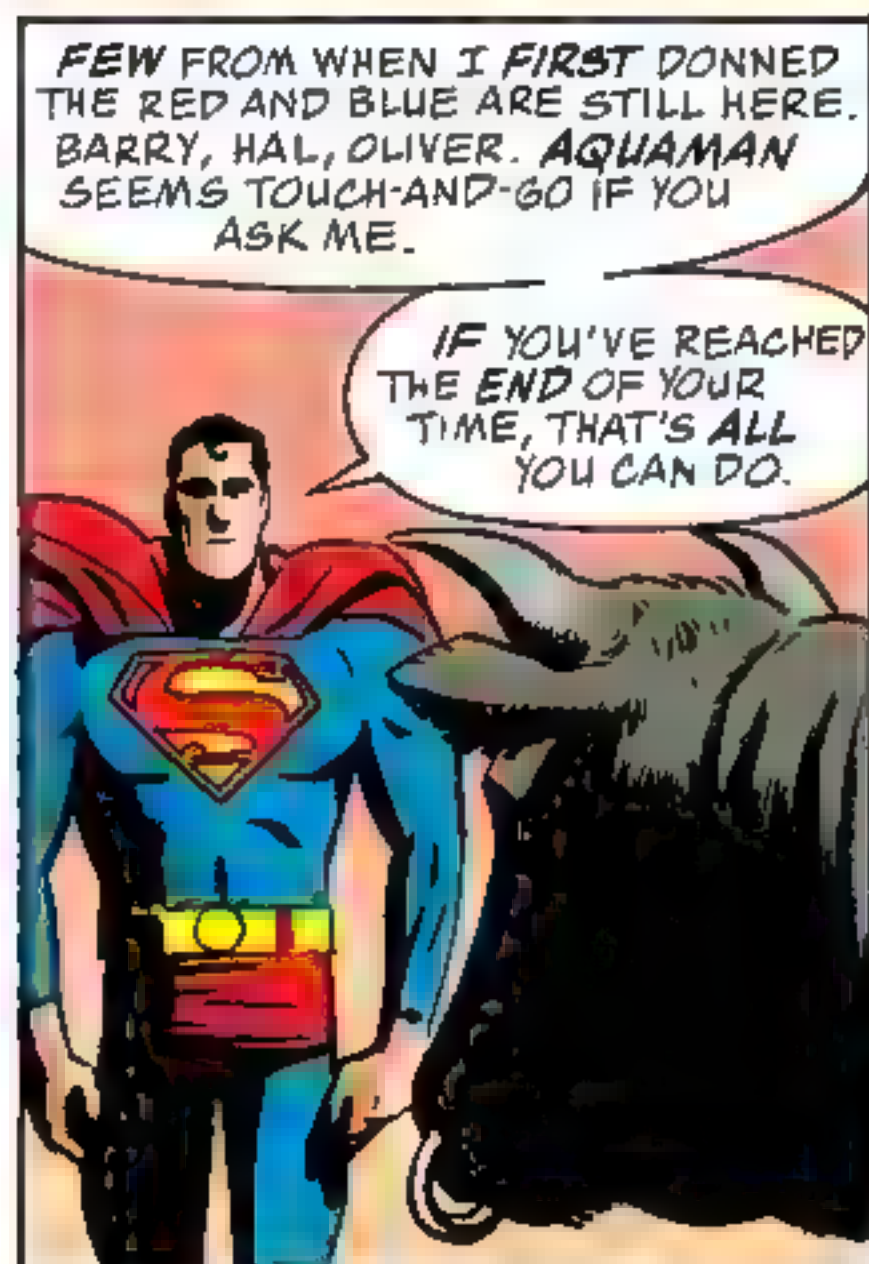


IS THAT WRONG?



YOU HEARD THE CALLING.

SOMETIMES THAT CALL NEVER DIES. SOMETIMES IT DOES.



FEW FROM WHEN I FIRST DONNED THE RED AND BLUE ARE STILL HERE. BARRY, HAL, OLIVER. AQUAMAN SEEMS TOUCH-AND-GO IF YOU ASK ME.

IF YOU'VE REACHED THE END OF YOUR TIME, THAT'S ALL YOU CAN DO.



YOU MET EVIL WITH VALOR. NOW LET OTHERS

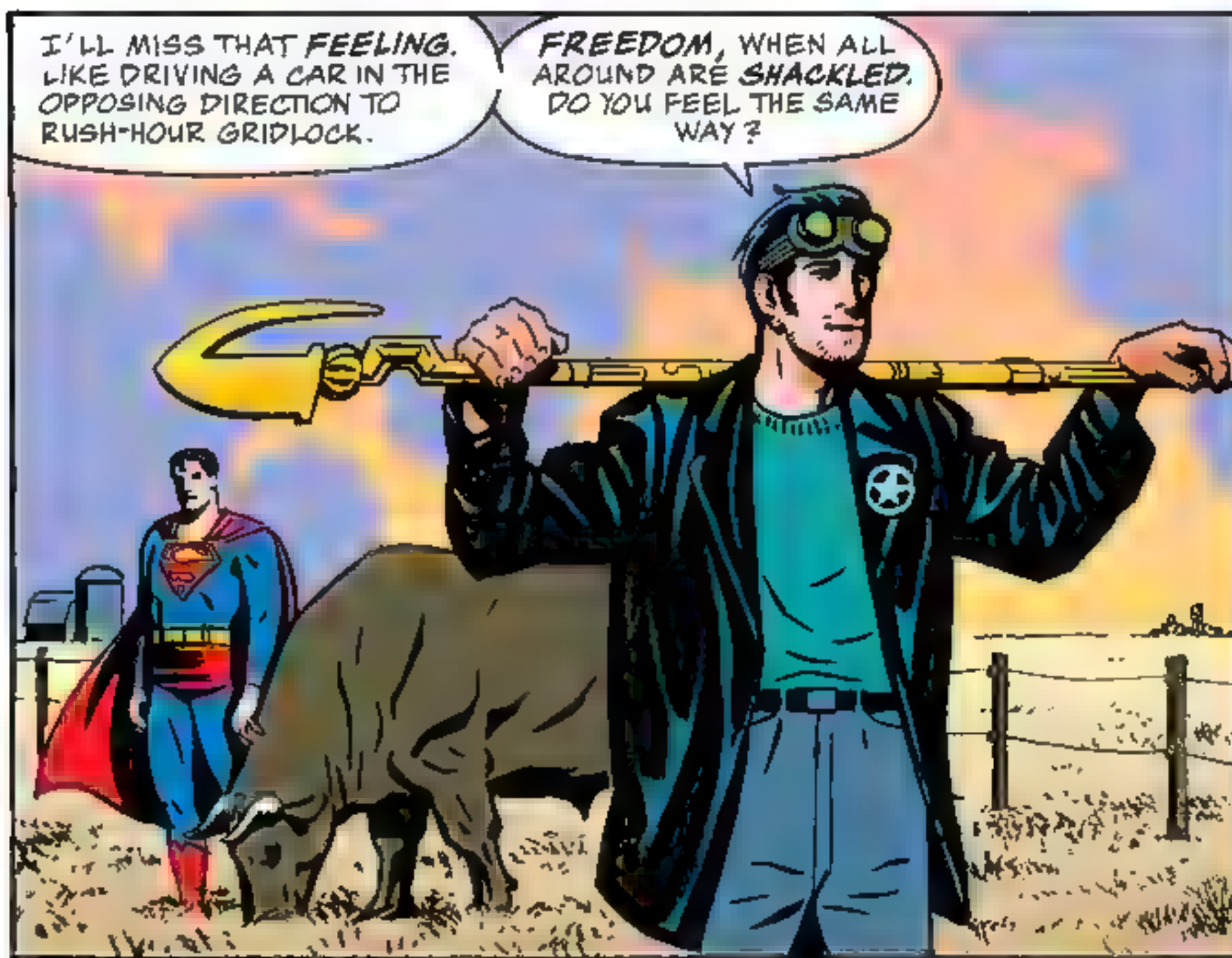
THANK YOU. HEARING YOU SAY THAT MEANS A LOT.



YOU WON'T MISS IT? THE LIFE?

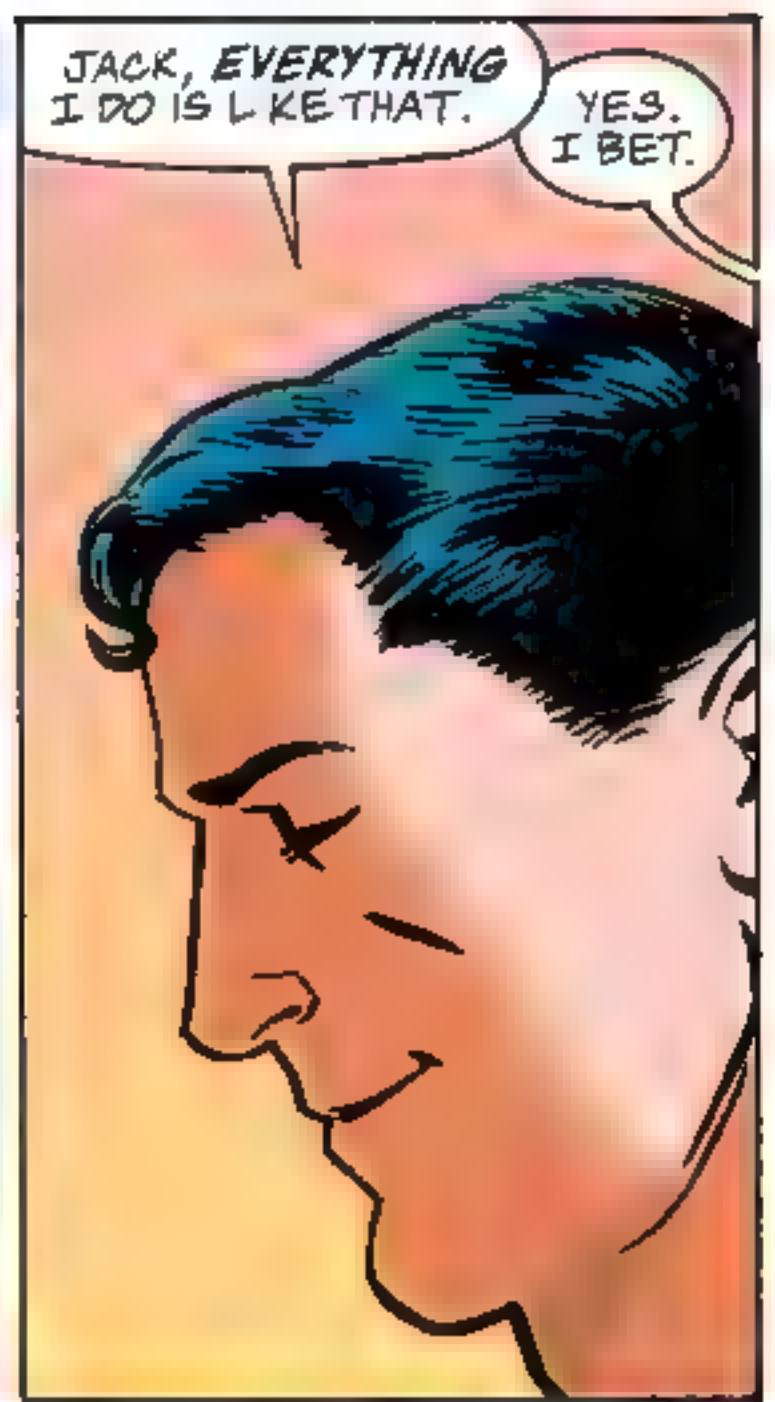
I'LL MISS FLYING.

AH, YES, WELL WHO WOULDN'T?



I'LL MISS THAT **FEELING**.
LIKE DRIVING A CAR IN THE
OPPOSING DIRECTION TO
RUSH-HOUR GRIDLOCK.

FREEDOM, WHEN ALL
AROUND ARE **SHACKLED**.
DO YOU FEEL THE SAME
WAY?



JACK, EVERYTHING
I DO IS LIKE THAT.

YES.
I BET.



AND I'LL MISS
THE **SPECTACLE**. I
DON'T MEAN THE
DEATH AND DESTRU-
TION. I MEAN THOSE
WONDERFUL
DISCOVERIES.

SEEING A
MAN **PART**
THE WATERS
OF VENICE
BY **RUNNING**
ON IT.

SEEING THE SOLDIERS
OF **TWENTY WORLDS**
CHARGING AS **ONE** TO
MY AID.



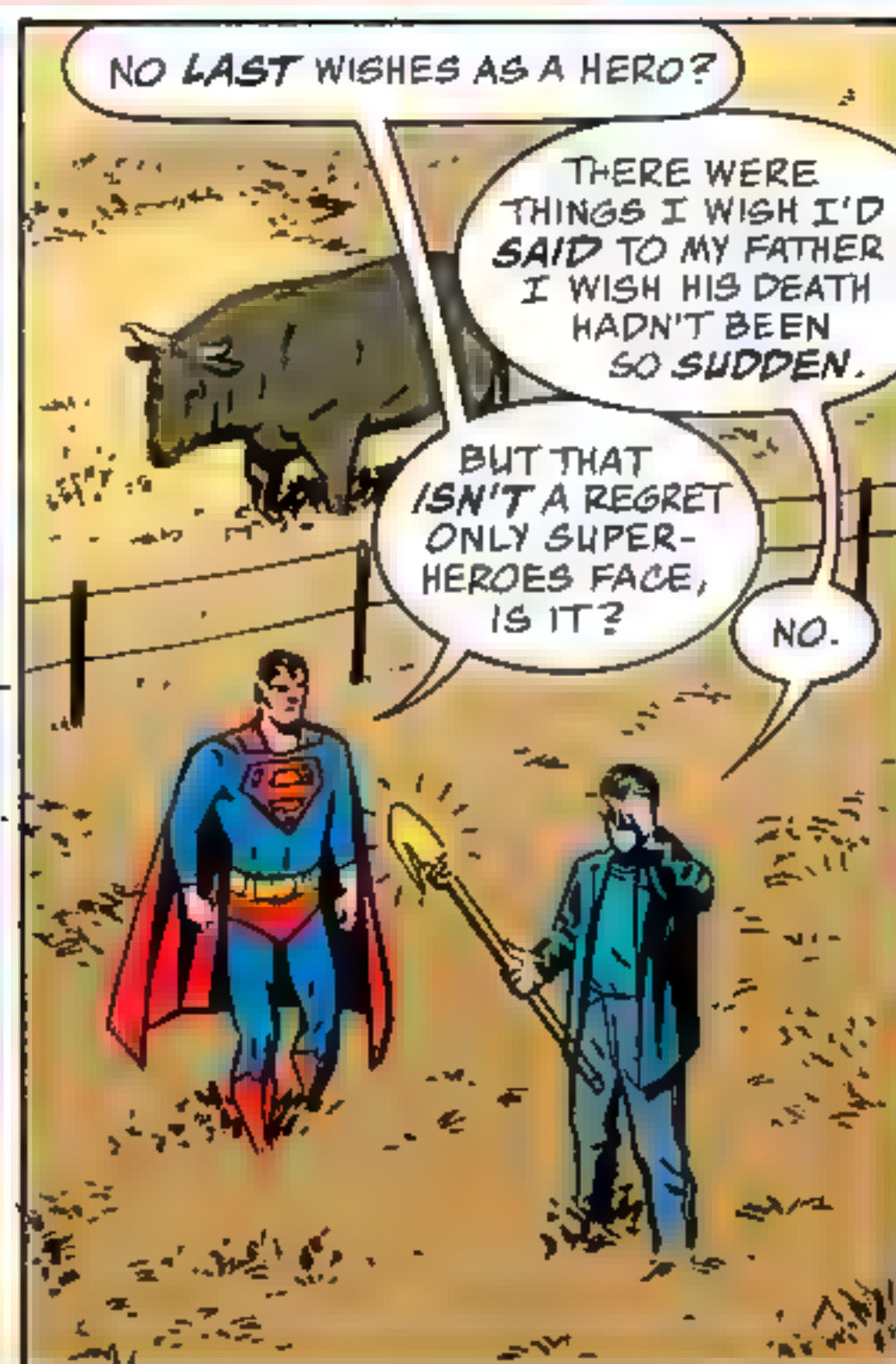
MEETING
YOU.



THE LIFE THAT WILL BE
MINE WILL BE **SLOW** FOR
THE LACK OF SUCH.

YOU'LL
DO FINE.

I HOPE
SO.



NO LAST WISHES AS A HERO?

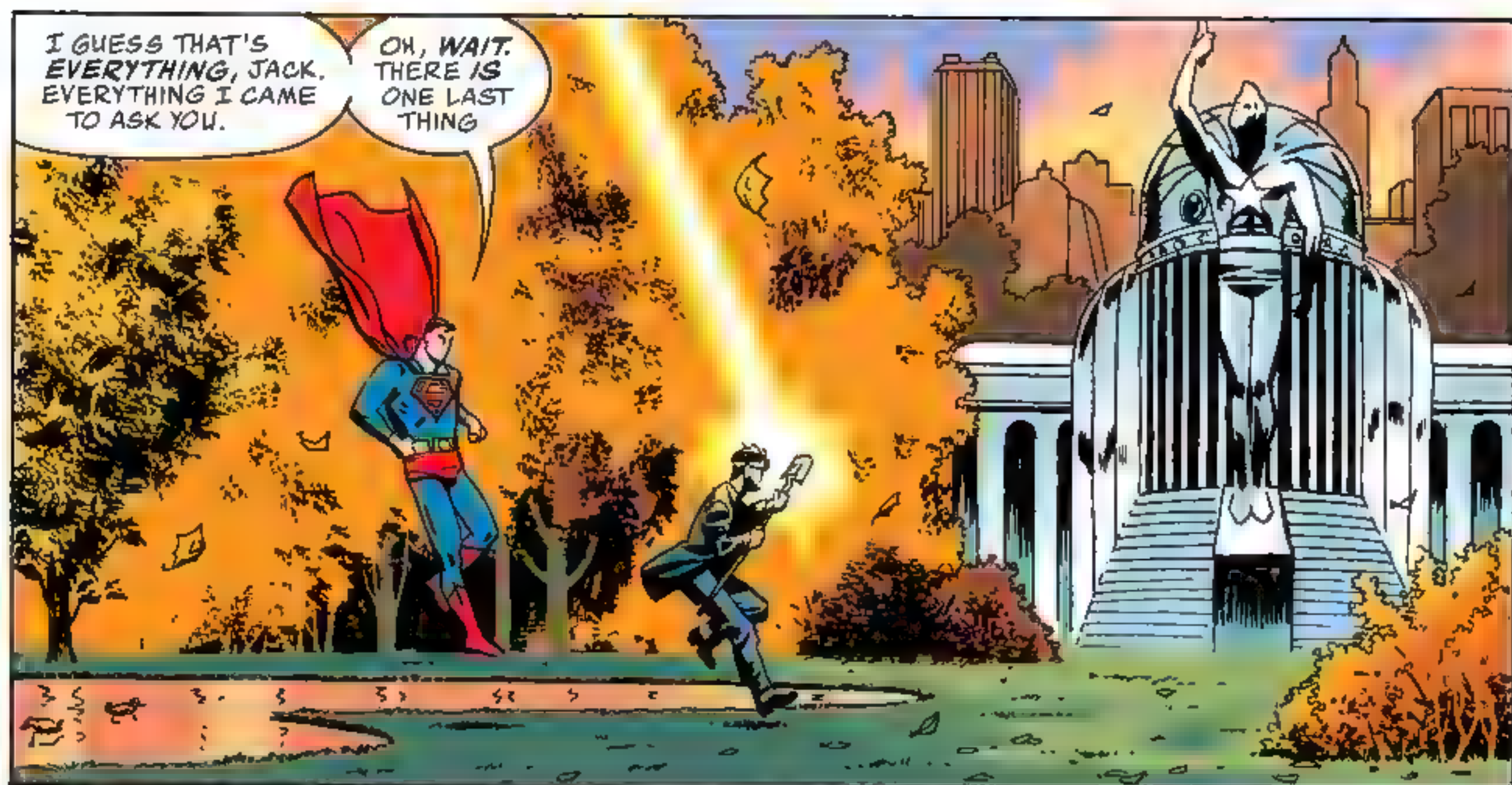
THERE WERE
THINGS I WISH I'D
SAID TO MY FATHER
I WISH HIS DEATH
HADN'T BEEN
SO **SUDDEN**.

BUT THAT
ISN'T A REGRET
ONLY SUPER-
HEROES FACE,
IS IT?

NO.



IN FACT, I THINK
BEING A HERO MAKES
BEARING THE FRAGIL-
ITY OF LIFE AND DEATH
A LITTLE **EASIER**.



I GUESS THAT'S EVERYTHING, JACK. EVERYTHING I CAME TO ASK YOU.

OH, WAIT. THERE IS ONE LAST THING

WHY DIDN'T YOU WARN MY FATHER? IF HE'D KNOWN ABOUT KRYPTON EARLIER, HE MIGHT HAVE HAD TIME TO GET HIMSELF, MY MOTHER AND ME ALL OFF THE PLANET TOGETHER.

OR NOT. OR HE MIGHT HAVE HAD MORE TIME TO CONVINCE KRYPTON OF THE DANGER AND THEY COULD HAVE WORKED OUT A WAY TO STOP IT FROM EXPLODING AND WE'D HAVE A WHOLE PLANET OF SUPERMEN.

OR JOR-EL COULD HAVE DIED TRYING TO SAVE HIS PLANET IN THE FOOLHARDY WAY YOUNG MEN ATTACK PROBLEMS WITH MORE HEART THAN HEAD.

OR NOT.

AND EARTH MIGHT NEVER HAVE KNOWN ITS GREATEST CHAMPION.

OR NOT.

I'M A SECOND-RATE HERO.

BUT EVEN A HERO LIKE YOU ISN'T GOD. WE CAN'T CHANGE DESTINY.

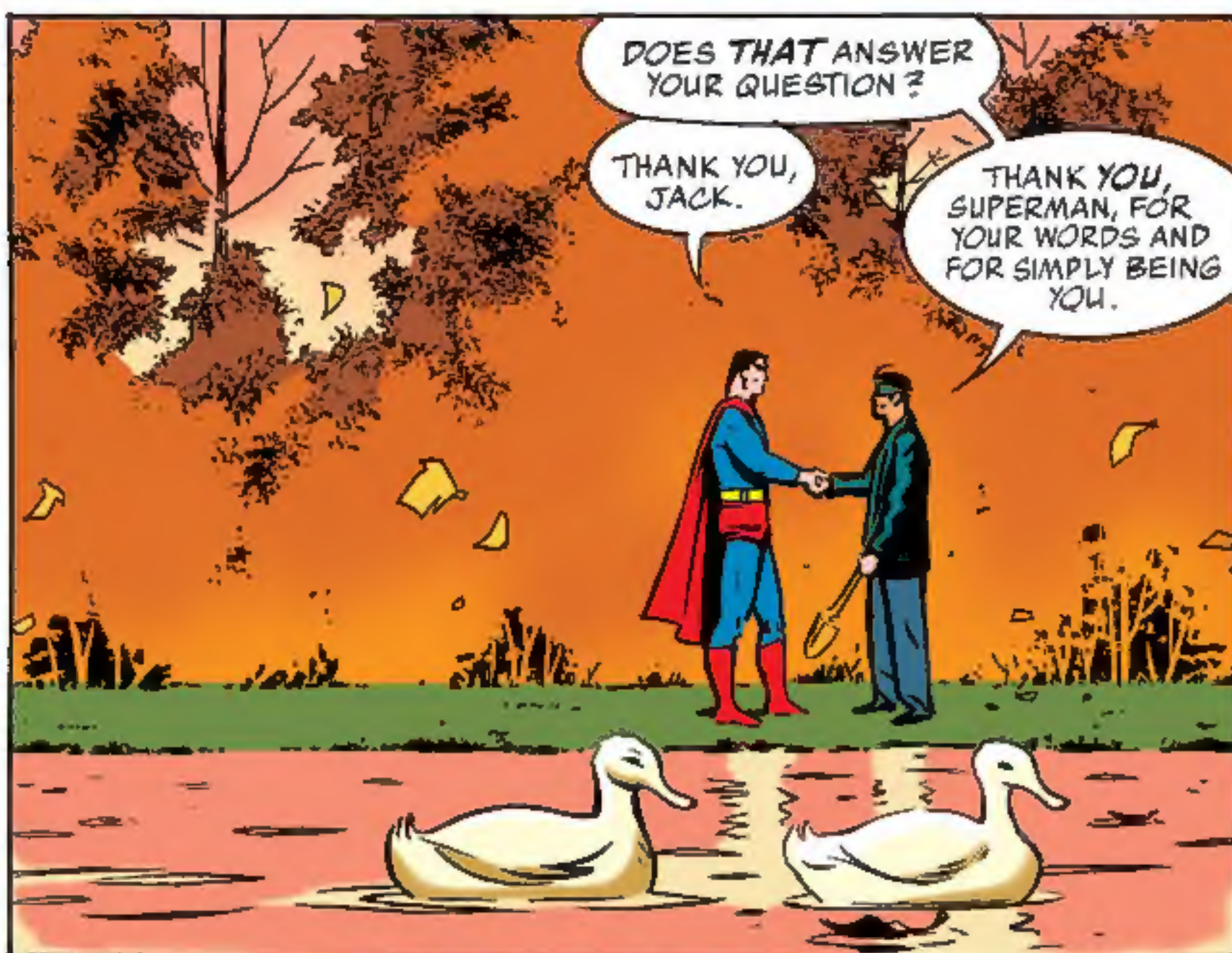
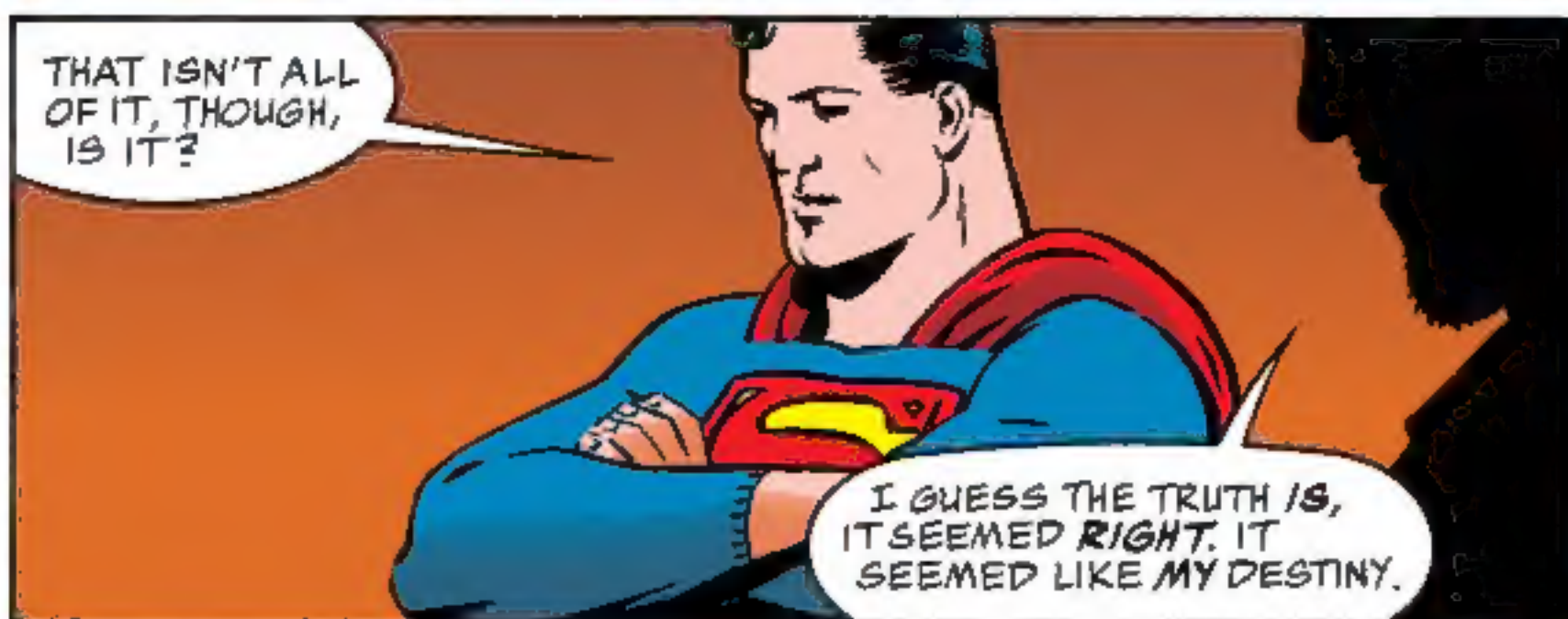
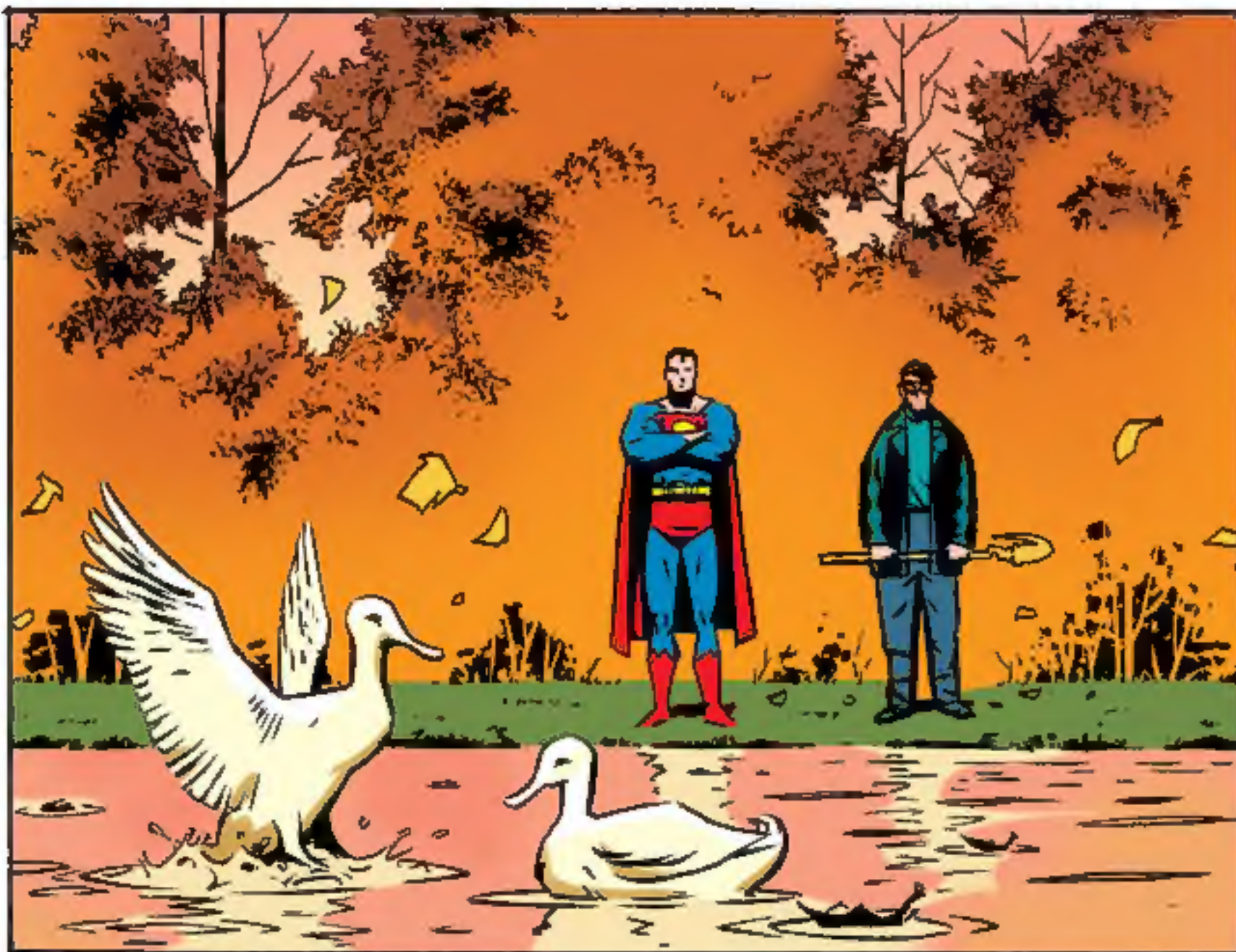
AND YET YOU GAVE MY FATHER THE DIRECTIONS TO EARTH.

BOY, MIKAAL AND JAY CERTAINLY DID HAVE A LONG CHAT.

WITHOUT YOU MY FATHER MIGHT NEVER HAVE KNOWN OF EARTH'S EXISTENCE

GOOD POINT.

THAT WASN'T CHANGING THE FUTURE, I WAS MERELY HELPING SOMETHING HAPPEN... YOU COMING HERE... THAT I KNEW WAS ALREADY DESTINED TO BE.







**NEXT ISSUE:
TALKING WITH
DAVID (...AND
TED) 2000**

Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP